1878-79

R.M.H.S. RESOURCE CENTER
READING, MASS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF READING

For the Year Ending March 1, 1879.

COMPRISING THE

REPORTS OF TOWN CLERK, TREASURER AND COLLECTOR,
SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,
SCHOOL COMMITTEE, ROAD COMMISSIONERS,
ENGINEERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT,
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY,
TRUSTEES OF CEMETERY,
AND AUDITORS.

READING:
NEWS AND CHRONICLE JOB PRINT,
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TOWN OFFICERS, 1878-79.

Town Clerk.

WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN.

Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor and Board of Health.

J. B. LEATHE, JAMES REID, JOSEPH L. PRATT.

Treasurer and Collector.

JAMES A. BANCROFT.

School Committee.

WALTER S. PARKER (resigned)	term expires,	1880
W. WALLACE DAVIS	do	1880
HORACE G. WADLIN, Chairman	do	1879
HENRY G. KITTREDGE	do	1879
WILLIAM F. DURGIN	do	1879
WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN	do	1881
CHARLES F. BROWN, Secretary	do	1881

Road Commissioners.

JAMES A. BANCROFT, Chairman	term expires,	1881
HENRY S. LaCLAIR	do	1880
CHARLES A. WESTON	do	1879

Engineers of Fire Department.

CHARLES H. LANG, Chief.

EDWARD C. NICHOLS, DANIEL CREESY,
GEORGE H. PARKER, JAMES DEWHURST.

Constables.

HUBBARD E. COX, WILLIAM L. CROWE.

Police Officers.

HUBBARD E. COX, WILLIAM L. CROWE,
JOHN A. BLUNT, EDWIN BASSETT.

Sealer of Weights and Measures.

DANIEL B. LOVEJOY.

Trustees of Public Library.

EDWARD APPLETON, Chairman	term expires,	1881
F. O. DEWEY	do	1881
STEPHEN FOSTER	do	1880
HORACE G. WADLIN	do	1880
HIRAM BARRUS	do	1879
WILLIAM PROCTOR	do	1879

Trustees of Cemetery.

F. O. DEWEY	term expires,	1881
G. C. GLEASON	do	1881
T. B. PRATT	do	1880
WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON	do	1880
SOLON BANCROFT	do	1879
F. H. KNIGHT	do	1879

Auditors.

S. E. PARKER, WILLIAM M. TITUS,
EDWARD F. PARKER.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1878.

Date.		Name.	Sex.	Names of Parents.	Occupation of Father.
Jan.	17	Rosa Ann Smith	F	William H. and Annie E.	Stone mason.
	21	——— Elliott	M	Herbert and Cassie.....	Physician.
	22	Charles Harlow, Jr	M	Charles and Laura	Civil engineer.
Feb.	5	——— Schweitzer	F	Charles and ———.....	Baker.
	5	Herbert Guy Stock	M	Henry and Ada L.....	Cabinetmaker.
	12	Charles M. Warren.....	M	Charles E. and Sarah J...	Organ-pipe maker.
	16	Hattie Ruth Litchfield...	F	Hiram and Arvesta.....	Laborer.
	22	Grace Dixon	F	Richard T. and Emma...	Farmer.
Mar.	8	Lawrence Nowell.....	M	Charles H. and Anna M..	Clerk.
	8	Adeline Elizabeth Parker.	F	Elmore and Mary E.....	Salesman.
	20	Thomas Bond Kittredge..	M	Henry G. and Martha S..	Merchant.
	22	Amy Flora Adams.....	F	Oliver S. and Martha A..	Mechanic.
	24	Bella Dewey Barrus.....	F	George H. and Sadie L..	Mechanical engin'r
	25	George Parker Verity....	M	John Henry and Clara F.	Farmer.
April	4	Charles Wallace Robbins.	M	Elisha F. and Charlotte B	Agent.
	7	Frank Harrison Parker...	M	Edward F. and Anna F..	Cabinetmaker.
	9	Adrienne Josep'e Thomas	F	Charles D. and Josep'e E.	Custom House.
	18	Samuel Elbridge Killam..	M	J. Warren and Mary S...	Farmer.
	20	William Badger	M	William H. and Carrie A.	Organ maker.
	28	Joseph Lyon Weston	M	David and Mary A.....	Brush maker.
	30	Arthur Francis Austin ...	M	Oliver W. and Ella A....	Machinist.
May	5	Estella M. Parker	F	Warren and Mary E.....	Carpenter.
	8	Clarence Clapp Brown...	M	Francis F. and Emma M.	Physician.
	26	Thomas Henry O'Brien ..	M	James and Mary A	Mechanic.
June	1	Mary Evelyn Pratt.....	F	Sydney P. and Ella Louise	Counsellor-at-law.
	14	Hattie Marion Totten....	F	Robert C. and Mary A...	Blacksmith.
July	2	Frank Erwin Brown.....	M	Joseph B. and Mary S ...	Machinist.
Aug.	10	Edgar Osmon Dewey.....	M	Edgar O. and Lizzie D...	Salesman.
	14	——— Bassett		Doma M. and ———....	
	22	William Edward Riordan.	M	Timothy and Julia.....	Laborer.
	23	Marion Estella Lang.....	F	Charles H., Jr., and May E	Salesman.
	27	Helen Abbott Bond.....	F	James S. and Lucy B....	Awning and tent [maker.
Sept.	11	——— Temple.....	F	R. Dexter and Flora W..	Mechanic.
	23	Reuben Arthur Muse ..	M	John and Sylvia.....	Stone mason.
	27	John Michael Kilnan.....	M	John and Catherine.....	Laborer.
	29	Ada Morgan	F	Miles C. and Mary E....	Organ maker.
Oct.	8	Claude Ulmus Gilson	M	F. Howard and Emily I..	Music printer.

BIRTHS—Continued.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Names of Parents.	Occupation of Father.
Oct. 14	Nellie Bernice Choate....	F	Fitz Herbert and Elia M.	Machinist.
29	John Herbert Marshall...	M	Simeon M. and Cora T..	Merchant.
Nov. 18	Erma Elinta Skilton	F	Jonathan and Caroline A.	Farmer.
Dec. 1	Frede'k Rudolphe Bowser	M	Robert and Mary Frances	Merchant.
3	Alice Frances Copeland..	F	Edward and Christina C..	Confectioner.
15	Sadie Marion White.....	F	Samuel and Jane.....	Fisherman.
22	Clarence Arthur Danforth	M	Frank W. and Emma J..	Painter.
23	Jennie McCall.....	F	Patrick and Margaret....	Harness maker.
24	Lilley Adams Hayward...	M	Warren and Elizabeth ...	Carpenter.
25	William Howard Doty...	M	Zechariah C. and Emma J	Soap manufacturer

Whole number of Births registered in Reading in 1878, 47. Males, 25; females, 22. Nativity of parents: Father—Reading, 7; other towns in the United States, 27; foreign, 13. Mother—Reading, 8; other towns in the United States, 29; foreign, 10.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN READING IN 1878.

Date.	Name of Groom and Bride.	Age.	Residence.	Occupation of Groom.	Place of Birth.	Names of Parents.	By Whom Married.
Jan. 1	George T. Platts....	22	Woburn	Leather-splitter	Andover	George and Charlotte	Rev. William Barrows.
	Beulah J. Bancroft..	21	Reading		Reading	Wendell and Nancy	
3	Clarence E. Merrill	25	Reading	Watchman ...	North Reading ..	George W. and Mary H..	Rev. William H. Willcox.
	Jennie T. Lovejoy ..	21	Reading		Reading	Daniel B. and Mary A....	
8	James Kervan.....	25	Reading	Laborer	Ireland	John and Martha	Rev. M. F. Flatley, Wakefield.
	Ellen Farrell.....	26	Reading		Ireland	James and Rose	
13	Elmer E. Gordon...	20	Stoneham ..	Clerk.....	Bath, N. H.....	Horace W. and Lucinda..	Rev. J. L. Hanaford.
	Ella C. Walker... .	20	Stoneham...		Brookfield, Me ..	John and Lydia.....	
17	Fitz Herbert Choate	27	Boston	Machinist	Salem	Ira and Sarah E. S.....	Rev. Quincy Whitney, Wakefield.
	Ella M. Melendy....	22	Reading		Reading	Nathan and H. Augusta ..	
April 5	John H. Wright, Jr.	19	Stoneham...	Shoemaker....	Stoneham.....	John H. and Melissa M...	Rev. William H. Willcox.
	Alice M. Richardson	17	Stoneham...		Stoneham.....	Albert and Abigail T.....	
17	George V. Jones....	25	Boston	Publisher	Newton.....	Vaughn and Martha J....	Rev. P. M. Macdonald.
	Carrie A. Norris....	25	Reading		Reading	Lewis and Mary	
21	John H. James	31	Reading	R. R. employe.	E. Kingston, N.H	Jabez D. and Eliza W....	Rev. James K. Ewer.
	Emma E. Francis...	21	Reading		East Boston	Antonio J. and Elizabeth..	
May 18	Henry B. Badger....	25	Reading	Organ-maker ..	Reading	William and Mary E.....	Rev. Daniel March, Woburn.
	Clara A. Paine	23	Reading		South Wareham.	William and Mary	
June 2	Walter Rayner	56	Reading	Shoe cutter ...	Townsend	Jacob S. and Nabby... ..	Rev. William H. Willcox.
	Emily J. Cole	41	Reading		Kennebunk, Me..	William and Lydia.....	
5	Albert Sturtevant...	22	East Boston.	Farmer	East Boston.....	William L. and Martha J.	Rev. L. R. Thayer, from Newtonville.
	Ada Louise Elliott..	22	Reading		Leominster	William W. and Nancy J.	
9	John D. Kirk	24	Winchester .	Carpenter.....	Winchester	John B. and Maria B.....	Rev. James K. Ewer.
	Lenora F. Brown ...	20	Winchester .		Readville, Me...	Currier and Lydia.....	
13	George H. Daland..	32	Reading	Teamster	Wakefield	John H. and Louisa M ...	Rev. George H. Cheney, Winchester.
	Susannah B. Skinner	31	Woburn		Woburn	Stephen, 2d, and Lucy B..	
July 31	Albert T. Eames....	22	Wilmington.	Foreman ice co	Wilmington	Thomas P. and Elona M..	Rev. Daniel P. Noyes, Wilmington.
	Elsie M. Gould	22	Reading		East Boston.....	Salma E. and Nancy	

Sept. 17	Edward M. Eaton ..	18	Stoneham...		Stoneham.....	Melzar and Eleanor A....	Rev. William H. Willcox.
	Stella B. Austin	20	Stoneham...		Natick.....	Frank H. and Harriet E..	
Nov. 7	Adelbert H. Carter..	19	Reading	Photographer .	Reading	Nathan and Susan A.....	Rev. William H. Willcox.
	Clara L. Damon....	18	Reading		Reading	Henry and Maria.....	
14	Jonathan Heselton..	55	Reading	Cabinet-maker.	Sunapee, N. H ..	Stephen and Lydia	Rev. C. E. Wilder, Stoneham.
	Phila Ann Porter...	38	Reading		Reading	George and Emily	
Dec. 9	Henry D. Babb.....	27	Reading	Expressman...	Manchester, N. H	Dennis P. and Elizabeth..	Rev. J. F. Mears.
	M. Frances Homer..	28	Boston		England	James and Martha (Bean)	
21	Julius I. Gleason....	25	Reading	Cabinet-maker.	Reading	Edward S. and Eliza	Rev. L. J. White.
	Lucy I. Smith	20	Reading		North Reading ..	Joseph A. and Sarah E...	

Whole number of Marriages registered in Reading for the year 1878, 19. Nativity of persons married: United States—Males, 18; females, 17; foreign—males, 1; females, 2.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1878.

Date.		Names.	Age. Y.	M.	D.	Names of Parents or Husband.	Cause.
January	15	Sarah Ethel Cook	1	10	3	John F. and Phebe A.	Diphtheria.
	17	Rosa Ann Smith		2	21	William H. and Annie E.	Whooping cough.
	21	——— Elliott				Herbert and Cassie	Still-born.
	21	Charles Ells Niles	14		4	Samuel D. and Lovina D.	Diphtheria.
	28	Mary Foote	46			Oscar Foote	Disease of brain.
February	10	Henrietta W. Kingman	20	4	29	Henry W. and Martha	Consumption.
	17	Sarah J. Warren	23		22	Charles E. Warren	Puerpural fever.
	20	Charles M. Warren			8	Charles E. and Sarah J	Stoppage of bowels.
	20	William S. Parker	56	10	1	Luther and Phebe R.	Chronic bronchitis.
	24	Genevra Nichols	2	5	3	Moses E. and Emily	Disease of brain.
March	7	Eunice Cole	84	11	16	John and Olive Niles	Heart disease.
	22	Antonio J. Francis	77		19		Heart disease.
	28	Sarah J. Nason	46		22	Stephen and Lucy Worth	Consumption.
April	5	Jerusha McIntire	83	4	12	Asa and Jerusha Richardson	Old age.
	7	George Parker	66	11	3	Asa and Anna	Scrofulous abscess.
	7	Augusta H. Jordan	46			Alvin P. Jordan	Consumption.
	21	William Badger			2	William and Carrie	Premature birth.
	30	Elizabeth M. Batchelder	69	8	20	Daniel K. Batchelder	Heart disease.
May	10	Mary Mears	78			John and Esther Woods	Paralysis.
	11	Lizzie A. Sweetser	35		6	Thomas H. and Mary N.	Consumption.
	17	L. Anna Eames	28	1	4	Charles B. Eames	Consumption.
	20	Charles Henry Kelley	4	1	21	Charles W. and Emma J.	Hydrocephalus.
	24	Lillie W. Temple	1	11	20	William H. and Ruth A.	Scarlet fever.
	26	Earnest G. Pickernell	1		16	John H. and Catherine	Convulsions.
June	17	Lillian E. Blanchard	27	6	23	Langdon Blanchard	Diphtheria.
	20	Elsie Blanchard	3	3	10	Langdon and Lillian E.	Diphtheria.
	21	Julia V. Ham.	21	7	13	William and Calista	Consumption.
July	9	Mary A. Creesey	51	1	12	Daniel Creesey	Consumption.

DEATHS—Continued.

July	9	Alice Appleton Smith	5	8	21	Frank M. and Louise A		Whooping cough.
	17	William E. Hanley	14	3	5	Mathew and Sarah		Typhoid fever.
August	4	Christian E. Rahr, Jr	2	2	25	Christian E. and Emma I		Cholera infantum.
	7	Emma E. Hopkins	25	11		Joseph W. and Mary J		Phthisis pulmonalis.
	9	Sarah A. Jones	32	7	4	William L. Jones		Phthisis pulmonalis.
	10	Frederick Hook	5	3	2	Henry and Caroline		Typhoid dysentery.
	12	John F. Hook	2	4	12	Henry and Caroline		Typhoid dysentery.
	13	Jennie Grace Warren	2	6	10	John P. and Clara		Typhoid dysentery.
	13	Lydia Peabody	73	7	11	James and Lydia Nichols		Dysentery.
	15	John A. Warren		9	2	John P. and Clara		Cholera infantum.
	17	Katherina Hook	66	8		Henry and Margaret Roetzel		Typhoid dysentery.
	17	Sherebiah S. Webber	45	3	2	Stephen and Hannah		Cancer.
	18	William Judkins	64		27	Jonathan and Lucy M		Typhoid dysentery.
	23	Emily H. Eames	30	5	18	James M. and Delia		Consumption.
	23	Jane L. Knight	53	5	13	William M. Knight		Loeomotor ataxia.
September	3	Mary A. Flint	27	3	22	Henry and Sarah A. Fifield		Dysentery.
	8	Abbie S. Todd	5		13	Thomas R. and Abby S		Malignant dysentery.
October	18	Arthur K. Heselton	5	6	13	Richmond and Lizzie M		Scarlet fever.
	20	Susan A. Carter	52	11	22	Nathan Carter		Hernia.
	28	Abby Bartlett	54	5	28	David and Abigail		Consumption.
November	25	Cyrenus C. Cummings	57	3	4	Daniel and Elizabeth		Bright's disease.
	26	Eben Francis Perkins	44	4	22	Alfred and Christina		Loeomotor ataxia.
December	7	John L. Hunt	65					Hemorrhage from bowels.
	17	Mary C. Damon	80		30	John and Hannah Cross		Chronic diarrhœa.

Whole number of Deaths registered in the year 1878, 52; males, 19: females, 33. Natives of Reading, 25; other towns in the United States, 24; foreign, 3.

WM. J. WIGHTMAN, Town Clerk.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

ALMSHOUSE. Dr.

To groceries	$340 71	
flour and bread	223 38	
grain and meal	161 35	
provisions	171 06	
bedding and clothing	49 57	
furniture and crockery	81 26	
produce	6 40	
wood and coal	175 02	
wheelwright and blacksmith bills	35 67	
hired labor	124 13	
medical attendance and medicines	20 65	
repairs on buildings	75 18	
farming tools	14 61	
sundries, ice, expressage, barrels, etc	55 47	
fish	24 65	
salary of keeper	400 00	
		$1959 11

ALMSHOUSE. Cr.

By labor on highways	$369 94	
labor other than on highways	23 00	
wood sold	178 79	
lighting street lamps	65 00	
board of sundry persons	370 50	
Amount carried forward		$1007 23

Amount brought forward	$1007 23	
By stock and produce sold	224 68	
Catharine O'Keefe's pension	96 00	
Catharine O'Keefe's State aid	48 00	
boarding horse	5 14	
lodging and food for 1498 tramps at 30 cents	449 40	
cash drawn from treasury to balance	128 66	
		$1959 11

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT ALMSHOUSE MARCH 1, 1879.

Furniture, crockery, tinware, etc	$251 49	
Beds and bedding	297 75	
Stoves and furniture	127 46	
Provisions	146 70	
Farming tools	199 65	
One horse	150 00	
One cow	35 00	
Swine	25 00	
Fowls	16 00	
Light wagon	40 00	
Farm wagon	60 00	
Stone wagon	20 00	
Two carts	120 00	
Horse sled	20 00	
Sleigh	12 00	
Mowing machine	30 00	
Hay and straw	94 20	
Wood and coal	93 66	
Grain and meal	10 45	
Manure	75 00	
Arches for building cisterns	10 00	
Posts and lumber	3 00	
Bills due for labor, produce, etc	178 59	
		$2015 95

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

Caroline Wiley, age 72.
*Alpheus Austin, age 59, from March 1 to June 5, 1878, and from January 22 to March 1, 1879.
Catharine O'Keefe, age 72.
James A. Hunter, age 35.
Hannah Welch.
Daniel P. Spokesfield, age 60, admitted May 18, 1878.
Mary Brown.
Clarissa Bryant, age 69, admitted November 28, 1878.
Harry Hunton, age 69, admitted November 11, 1878.

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for supplies for Oliver S. Adams	$8 00	
medical attendance do	12 50	
fuel do	3 37	
		$23 87
supplies for George W. Batchelder	$5 00	
boots and shoes do	8 00	
fuel do	6 25	
rent do	7 50	
		26 75
supplies for Mary A. Blanchard	$27 97	
medical attendance and medicines for Mary A. Blanchard	31 40	
fuel do	53 53	
		112 90
board of Clarissa Bryant to Nov. 28, 1878		82 75
support of Abigail B. Beers at Lunatic Hospital		197 44
support of Alma J. Day at Lunatic Hospital		153 40
support of Benjamin Weston at Lunatic Hospital		185 75
supplies for Henry Berry and family	$156 00	
medical attendance do	12 50	
		168 50
Amount carried forward		$951 36

* Supported by the State from June 5, 1878, to January 22, 1879, as an indigent soldier.

Amount brought forward	$951 36	
Paid town of Stoneham for supplies for William R. Butters	3 00	
town of Stoneham for funeral expenses of wife of William R. Butters	15 00	
		$18 00
for fuel for Mrs. L. R. Lloyd and family	$19 25	
medical attendance do	10 50	
rent do	70 00	
		99 75
supplies for Sarah L. Penney and child	$27 50	
medical attendance do	39 45	
funeral expenses of child	9 00	
		75 95
supplies for Alfred M. Richardson	$2 28	
fuel do	4 00	
		6 28
supplies for Jane White	$13 25	
fuel do	1 87	
		15 12
rent for Miranda and Julia E. Ellenwood	$31 50	
fuel do	3 06	
		34 56
rent for Jerusha McIntire	$4 50	
medical attendance	5 00	
		9 50
supplies for John H. Daland	$12 00	
fuel do	7 14	
		19 14
supplies for Bridget Donegan and family	$87 00	
fuel do	15 82	
medical attendance do	1 25	
		104 07
fuel for John R. Dennett		3 75
supplies for Cleaveland B. Holt		2 00
George E. Leathe and family		40 00
support of William H. Manning		78 21
Amount carried forward		$1457 69

Amount brought forward		$1457 69
Paid for supplies for Harry Hunton	$46 00	
fuel for Harry Hunton	3 50	
medical attendance for Harry Hunton...	22 50	
nursing do ...	132 75	
		204 75
supplies for Langdon S. Blanchard and family	$23 80	
fuel for Langdon S. Blanchard and family	4 75	
medical attendance and medicines for Langdon S. Blanchard and family	49 22	
nursing do	4 00	
funeral expenses of wife and child of Langdon S. Blanchard	24 75	
board of child of Langdon S. Blanchard.	88 50	
expense of conveying child to Pine street Home	1 23	
		196 25
town of Winchester for supplies for John A. Messer and family		16 03
for rent for Hannah J. Nichols and family.	$33 00	
fuel do .	19 88	
medical attendance on child and medicine	12 60	
		65 48
city of Haverhill for supplies for Walter G. Perkins		6 56
for supplies for William Pierce.....	$22 00	
fuel do	39 94	
rent do	48 00	
medical attendance for William Pierce...	12 50	
		122 44
supplies for Louisa R. Parker.....		78 00
city of Boston, supplies for Emil Ross and family.....		34 74
city of Boston, supplies for James E. White.		1 38
for supplies for Newton J. Robinson.....	$4 25	
fuel do	17 50	
		21 75
conveying State paupers to State almshouse		3 55
		$2208 62

RECEIPTS FOR SUPPORT OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

From city of Boston, for supplies for L. R. Lloyd.	$77 25	
town of Carlisle, for supplies for O. S. Adams	23 87	
		$101 12

DUE FOR SUPPORT OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

From city of Boston, for supplies for L. R. Lloyd.	$22 50	
town of Malden, for supplies for S. L. Penney	75 95	
town of Woburn, for supplies for A. M. Richardson	6 28	
town of Woburn, for supplies for Henry Berry and family	168 50	
town of Athol, for supplies for M. and J. E. Ellenwood	34 56	
State, for supplies for Jane White	15 12	
State, for supplies for Emil Ross	10 00	
		332 91
Net expense of poor out of house		$1774 59
Net expense of poor in the house		128 66
Whole expense in and out of house		$1903 25
Paid for food and lodging 1498 tramps at 30 c.		449 40

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid George T. Dole in full for services on School Committee for year 1877–8	$6 75	
W. F. Durgin, for services on School Committee to April 1st, 1878	25 00	
Walter S. Parker, for services on School Committee to May 7th, 1878	75 00	
H. G. Wadlin, for services on School Committee to March 1st, 1879	60 00	
H. G. Wadlin, for taking census of school children in 1878	10 00	
W. Wallace Davis, for services on School Committee to March 1st, 1879	45 00	
Amount carried forward		221 75

Amount brought forward	$221 75
Paid Solon Bancroft, for services on School Committee for year 1877–8	40 00
H. G. Kittredge, for services on School Committee for year 1878–9	50 00
William J. Wightman, for services on School Committee for 1878	35 00
J. B. Leathe, for services as Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of Poor and on Board of Health	275 00
James Reid, for services as Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of Poor and on Board of Health	275 00
Joseph L. Pratt, for services as Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of Poor and on Board of Health	200 00
William J. Wightman, for services as Town Clerk for year 1878	25 00
William J. Wightman, for recording births, deaths and marriages	32 60
William J. Wightman, for issuing certificate to Representative	2 00
William J. Wightman, for making other official records	13 00
William J. Wightman, for postage stamps and stationery for Clerk's office	1 50
William J. Wightman, for dog licenses	2 25
James A. Bancroft, for services as Treasurer and Collector to March 1st, 1879	325 00
W. Wallace Davis, for services as Collector of 1876 tax to March 13th, 1879	30 00
James A. Bancroft, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1st, 1879	50 00
Charles A. Weston, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1st, 1879	50 00
Henry S. LaClair, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1st, 1879	50 00
Hubbard E. Cox, for services as Constable	30 00
Amount carried forward	$1708 10

Amount brought forward	$1708 10	
Paid William L. Crowe, for services as Constable and Policeman	14 50	
Joseph W. Spokesfield, for services as Policeman May 30, 1879	1 00	
John A. Blunt, for services as Policeman	5 50	
Francis Bartley, for services as Auditor for 1877–8	3 00	
J. C. Gleason, for services as Auditor for 1877–8	3 00	
Fare of Overseer of Poor to East Weymouth	1 28	
		$1736 38

TOWN OFFICE.

Paid Pulsifer, Jordan & Wilson, for envelopes	$1 63	
Lewis E. Gleason, for postage stamps	3 25	
Charles K. Darling, for stationery	5 50	
Thomas Groom & Co., for tax book for Collector	1 50	
for railroad tickets	4 32	
Bancroft & Temple, for coal	7 25	
George Beasley, keeper, for wood	1 40	
Lang's express, for express charges	15	
Cummings' express, for express charges	1 55	
James Reid & Co., for curtain cord, etc	25	
Matthew Hanley, for chairs	9 50	
William Proctor, for rent of office to January 1, 1879	150 00	
		$186 30

PRINTING.

Paid Hill & Co., for printing town reports for 1877–78	$178 75	
Hill & Co., for printing and advertising town warrants for April meeting	7 00	
Hill & Tolman, for printing orders and notices	8 75	
Hill & Tolman, for printing for Collector	4 00	
Amount carried forward		$198 50

Amount brought forward	$198 50	
Paid C. T. Tolman, for printing tax bills	8 00	
C. T. Tolman, for printing and advertising	6 00	
C. T. Tolman, for printing posters and warrants	4 00	
C. T. Tolman, for advertising apples for sale	1 75	
		$218 25

STREET LIGHTS.

Paid Citizens' Gaslight Company, for gas	$165 62	
Globe Gaslight Company, for naphtha	32 50	
Charles W. Badger, for naphtha	7 43	
for kerosene oil for light on Woburn street	2 38	
for lighting	127 00	
for repairs	3 35	
Cummings' express, for expressage	5 10	
Lang's express, for expressage	7 15	
for erecting two lights on Salem street	52 63	
		403 16

STATE AID.

Paid Lucy J. Allen	$48 00	
Mary A. Blanchard	48 00	
Dorcas Berry	48 00	
Seth Bessey and wife	112 25	
George W. Carleton	18 00	
Martin J. DeRonde and wife	76 00	
W. Wallace Davis	72 00	
Henry Deadman and wife	77 00	
Lydia C. Eaton	48 00	
Caroline Goodwin	48 00	
Sarah Hetler	48 00	
L. W. Krook	36 00	
Rebecca Lloyd	48 00	
Benjamin McAllister	72 00	
Edwin Manning	54 00	
Sarah Nichols	48 00	
Catherine O'Keefe	48 00	
Margaret Pinkham	48 00	
Amount carried forward		$997 25

Amount brought forward	$997 25	
Paid Charlotte Richardson	48 00	
Christian E. Rahr	54 00	
William B. Reed	36 00	
Harriet C. Robinson	48 00	
Henry F. Scruton	72 00	
Eliza Stevens	48 00	
Harriet Young	48 00	
		$1351 25

RELIEF TO INDIGENT SOLDIERS.

Paid Oliver S. Adams	$87 84	
Alpheus Austin	126 40	
Edmund Buxton	62 00	
Henry Batchelder	9 00	
William L. Crowe	66 00	
George W. Dean	35 00	
Thomas A. Evans	28 00	
Squires Holt	49 00	
Henry W. Kummer	41 00	
Matthys H. Krook	36 00	
John J. Kelley	54 50	
William LaClair	6 00	
John M. Houseman	51 50	
John A. Mills	66 00	
Horace A. Parker	66 00	
Austin Richardson	41 50	
Johnson Richardson	5 00	
Frank S. Stowell	70 00	
Joseph A. Smith	40 00	
Sherebiah S. Webber	64 00	
Orville N. Wilder	71 50	
		$1076 24

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Paid James A. Bancroft, Collector, on list of 1875	$135 00	
W. Wallace Davis, Collector, on list of 1876.	175 45	
James A. Bancroft, Collector, on list of 1878	7 12	
		$317 57

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Lyceum Hall Association, for use of hall for town meetings in 1878	$40 00	
Bancroft & Temple, for watering trough	6 00	
Bancroft & Temple, for repairing platforms of town pumps	3 70	
J. H. Wentworth, for repairing pumps	8 45	
for spout and labor on pumps	1 75	
James M. Eames, for labor on cisterns	4 00	
Chelmsford Foundry Co., for cistern covers	13 52	
B. & M. R. R., for freight on cistern covers	54	
for repairs on clock in tower of Old South Church	35 00	
Peter B. Teed, for oiling and packing tree protectors	3 85	
George Beasley, for tarring trees on common	4 00	
George O. Batchelder, for street sign-boards	1 75	
Gilman C. Gleason, for returning 52 deaths to Town Clerk	13 00	
F. J. Barnard, for binding one volume town reports	80	
Geo. W. Dean, for ringing bell for town meetings	1 50	
F. F. Brown, M. D., for cash paid for analysis of water	10 30	
Timothy Riordan, for labor for the Board of Health	1 00	
		$149 16

REAL ESTATE SOLD FOR TAXES AND BOUGHT BY TOWN.

Paid for estate of Lafayette Blood, Linden street	$99 75	
estate, corner of Orange and Winter streets	17 65	
estate on Orange street	16 20	
estate of David F. Weston, on Haven and Chute streets	140 73	
recording deeds	4 00	
tax and interest on the Beard estate, corner of Pleasant and John streets	40 33	
		$318 66

SCHOOLS.

Appropriation	$8000 00	
State School fund	200 85	
	$8200 85	
Amount drawn	8016 00	
Amount unexpended		$184 85

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Appropriation	$2500 00	
Amount expended	612 08	
Amount unexpended		87 92

REPAIR OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation	$2500 00	
Amount drawn	2499 28	
Amount unexpended		72

CLEARING SNOW.

Appropriation	$300 00	
Amount drawn	195 11	
Amount unexpended		104 89

BRIDGES.

Appropriation	$300 00	
Amount drawn	297 54	
Amount unexpended		2 46

BUILDING CURTIS STREET.

Appropriation	$300 00	
Amount drawn	246 73	
Amount unexpended		53 27

BUILDING WINTER STREET.

Appropriation	$50 00	
Amount drawn	47 58	
Amount unexpended		$2 42

BUILDING ASH STREET.

Appropriation	$500 00	
Amount drawn	442 88	
Amount unexpended		57 12

BUILDING MIDDLESEX AVENUE.

Appropriation	$250 00	
Amount drawn	245 28	
Amount unexpended		4 72

BUILDING SIDEWALK ON MAIN STREET.

Appropriation	$300 00	
Amount drawn	299 36	
Amount unexpended		64

BUILDING CULVERT ACROSS MAIN STREET.

Appropriation	$400 00	
Amount drawn	197 30	
Amount unexpended		202 70

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Appropriation	$300 00
Dog Tax	212 86
	$512 86
Amount drawn	512 86

CEMETERY.

Appropriation	$350 00	
Amount drawn	275 00	
Amount unexpended		$75 00

SOLDIERS' GRAVES.

Appropriation	$100 00
Amount drawn	100 00

BELL ON HANCOCK ENGINE HOUSE.

Appropriation	$300 00
Amount drawn	300 00

WELL ON WEST STREET.

Appropriation	$250 00	
Amount drawn	237 92	
Amount unexpended		12 08

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Appropriation	$1700 00	
Amount drawn	1693 46	
Amount unexpended		6 54

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Received for schools	appropriation	$8000 00	
school incidentals	do	700 00	
ordinary charges	do	3500 00	
Fire Department	do	1700 00	
interest on town debt	do	3500 00	
payment on town debt	do	2279 00	
repairs of highways	do	2500 00	
bridges	do	300 00	
removing snow	do	300 00	
Amount carried forward			$22,779 00

Amount brought forward		$22,779 00	
Received for building Curtis street appropriation		300 00	
building Winter street	do	50 00	
building Middlesex avenue	do	250 00	
building Ash street	do	500 00	
Public Library	do	300 00	
cemetery	do	350 00	
soldiers' graves	do	100 00	
bell on Hancock engine house	do	300 00	
building well on West street	do	250 00	
overlayings	do	1132 32	
State tax	do	1300 00	
county tax	do	939 07	
Amount of tax list			$28,550 39
Received from State, corporation tax		$435 59	
State, national bank tax		367 05	
State, school fund		200 85	
County Treasurer, dog licenses		212 86	
town of Carlisle for support of O. S. Adams		43 63	
city of Boston for support of L. R. Lloyd		97 50	
interest on deposits		26 86	
premium on note		22 50	
discount on county tax		7 83	
interest on taxes		521 37	
rents on estates held by tax titles		247 50	
			2183 54
Due from city of Boston for support of Lewella R. Lloyd		22 50	
town of Malden for support of Sarah L. Penney		75 95	
			98 45
Amount carried forward			$30,832 38

Amount brought forward	$30,832 38	
Due from town of Woburn for support of Alfred M. Richardson.....	6 28	
town of Woburn for support of Henry Berry	168 50	
town of Athol for support of Miranda and Julia E. Ellenwood...	34 56	
State for support of Jane White...	15 12	
State for support of Emil Ross....	10 00	
State for relief of indigent soldiers	1076 24	
State for State aid	1567 75	
		$2,878 45
		$33,710 83

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for schools	$8016 00	
school incidentals	612 08	
clearing snow.....	195 11	
repairs of highways.....	2499 28	
bridges	297 54	
building Curtis street	246 73	
Winter street.....	47 58	
Ash street	442 88	
Middlesex avenue	245 28	
sidewalk on Main street ...	299 36	
culvert across Main street..	197 30	
supplies for Almshouse.....	128 66	
poor out of Almshouse.....	2208 62	
tramps, 1498 at 30 cents each	449 40	
relief of indigent soldiers	1076 24	
State aid.....	1351 25	
Public Library.....	512 86	
cemetery	275 00	
decoration of soldiers' graves	100 00	
bell on Hancock engine house	300 00	
well on West street.....	237 92	
abatement of taxes	317 57	
Fire Department	1693 46	
Amount carried forward		$21,750 12

Amount brought forward	$21,750 12	
Paid for town officers	1,736 38	
town office	186 30	
printing	218 25	
street lights	403 16	
miscellaneous expenses	149 16	
tax titles for real estate to secure taxes	318 66	
State tax	1,300 00	
county tax	939 07	
interest on town debt	3,231 19	
expense on estates held by tax titles	21 34	
		$30,253 63
Total receipts		33,710 83
Total expenditures		30,253 63
Receipts more than expenditures		$3,457 20

VALUATION FOR 1878.

Real estate	$2,063,504 00	
Personal estate	216,950 00	
Total valuation		$2,280,454 00
Amount of taxes assessed		28,550 39
Rate of taxation per $1000		11 80

Number of polls	820
Number of dwelling houses	674
Number of acres of land	5698

J. B. LEATHE,
JAMES REID,
JOSEPH L. PRATT, } Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

W. WALLACE DAVIS,

COLLECTOR OF 1876 TAXES,

IN ACCOUNT WITH TOWN OF READING.

DR.

March 16, 1878.	To uncollected 1876 taxes.....	$2620 76	
	interest uncollected	246 84	
			$2867 60

CR.

By cash paid J. A. Bancroft, Town Treasurer.....	$2867 60

W. WALLACE DAVIS, Collector of 1876 taxes.

Reading, March 25, 1879.

Dr. JAMES A. BANCROFT, Treasurer, in account with the Town of Reading. Cr.

To balance in treasury March 18, 1878		$3,985 50	By paying Selectmen's orders	$24,762 03
cash of town of Malden for support of S. L. Penney		89 78	town debt	13,482 94
" town of Carlisle for support of O. S. Adams		43 63	interest on town debt	3,231 19
" city of Springfield for support of O. N. Wilder		88 00	State tax	1,300 00
" city of Boston for support of L. R. Lloyd		97 50	county tax	939 07
hired money		11,082 94	expense on estate bought for taxes	21 34
interest on deposits		26 86		
taxes		274 53		$43,736 57
premium on note		22 50	Uncollected taxes of 1877	$1,733 97
discount on county tax		7 83	Uncollected taxes of 1878	8,472 01
corporation tax		435 59		10,205 98
national bank tax		367 05	Balance in treasury, cash	5,542 72
State aid		1,381 00		
school fund		200 85		$59,485 27
dog licenses		212 86		
cash for rent from estates bought for taxes		247 50		
of W. W. Davis, Collector		2,867 60		
Solon Bancroft on account of F. Bancroft, Collector		566 82		
tax list of 1877 committed to collect		8,934 14		
tax list of 1878 committed to collect		28,550 39		
tax after being abated		2 40		
		$59,485 27		

Reading, March 26, 1879.

JAMES A. BANCROFT, Treasurer and Collector.

AUDITORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1879.

LIABILITIES.

Town notes March 1, 1878	$59,900 00	
Town notes March 1, 1879	57,500 00	
Decrease for the year	$2,400 00	
		$57,500 00
Interest accrued on town notes	992 77	
Due Fire Department (estimated)	1,100 00	
Miscellaneous debts	100 00	
		2,192 77
		$59,692 77

AVAILABLE ASSETS.

Unpaid taxes	10,205 98	
Due from State (aid account)	1,567 75	
Due from State (relief of indigent soldiers)	1,076 24	
Claim on Eben Beard's estate	125 00	
Claim on estates bought for taxes	92 50	
Due from Boston	22 50	
Malden	75 95	
Woburn	174 78	
Athol	34 56	
State	25 12	
Cash in treasury	5,542 72	
		$18,943 10
Net debt March 1, 1879		40,649 67
Net debt March 1, 1878		44,075 00
Decrease for the year		3,425 33

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

Town farm	4,000 00	
Personal property at town farm	1,837 36	
		$5,837 36
Cemetery land and lots	2,300 00	
Hearse	120 00	
House	75 00	
		2,495 00
Eagle engine and hose carriage	600 00	
House	500 00	
Hancock engine and hose carriage	450 00	
House	1,400 00	
Union engine	40 00	
Washington engine	175 00	
House	25 00	
Hook and ladder carriage, etc	350 00	
Furniture and hose	1,650 00	
		5,190 00
Property in Town Office		350 00
School houses and furniture	30,000 00	
Public Library	2,200 00	
Piano and apparatus in High School	500 00	
		32,700 00
		46,572 36

We have examined the books of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the year ending March 1, 1879, and find the same correct and satisfactorily vouched.

S. E. PARKER,
EDWARD F. PARKER, } Auditors.
WILLIAM M. TITUS,

Reading, March 26, 1879.

LIBRARY REPORT.

The Trustees of the Public Library respectfully submit the following report:

RECEIPTS.

Annual appropriation	$300 00	
Dog licenses	212 86	
Fines	26 90	
Sale of cards	5 40	
Sale of catalogues	3 15	
Balance from 1878	4 20	
		$552 51

EXPENDITURES.

Librarian	$108 25	
Books	200 70	
Binding	35 75	
Rent and insurance	175 00	
Printing	4 00	
Miscellaneous	4 35	
New shelves	24 46	
		$552 51

Number of books purchased	162
received from Dramatic Association	33
F. H. Knight	9
S. Foster	4
other sources	10
Total number of additions	218
Whole number of volumes in the Library	4175
Circulation for the past year	13,012

It will be seen that our expenses for the year exactly balance the receipts. In consequence of the lateness of the return of the amount of the "dog tax" from the State, our last purchase of books—sixty-four volumes—has been made within a month.

It is a matter of regret that we have not a fire-proof building for the library. We congratulate our sister Woburn on the completion of such a building within her limits. It is a beautiful edifice, and is built entirely by private funds bequeathed for the purpose by one of its former wealthy citizens. If any of our large-hearted capitalists are contemplating a similar gift to this town, we hope they will not wait for their executors to do the work, but set about it soon, that they may do a good thing for themselves and others where it will be appreciated. The poet Bryant set a good example in his lifetime by erecting in his native town a library building, and in filling it with valuable books. Such a building might have one or more rooms to be used for scientific purposes. An association was formed in this town some years since for work, research and study in the different departments of science, as botany, geology, etc. The want of a room wherein to work, and to preserve specimens in case of fire, appears to be the chief obstacle in the way of the successful progress of such an enterprise. A fire-proof apartment would also enable the town to have a museum, wherein to collect many articles of interest, now in private hands, liable to be lost. The antiquarian departments of some of our festivals have shown that the town has a supply of historic articles that would be invaluable for such an object. To show the value that things of "ye olden time" sometimes possess, and as an inducement to make some effort for their preservation, we may refer to the auction sale of the "Brinley Library," lately held in New York. Four or five almanacs printed in Cambridge in the years 1646–50, specimens of the work of the first three printers in English America, were sold for $282.50. They formerly belonged to one of the early pastors of the First Parish Church in Reading—Rev. Mr. Haugh. It is said they cost Mr. Brinley $800. They are now owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society. A copy of Eliot's Indian Bible sold for $1000; another copy, second edition, $500. Other ancient books relating to New England affairs brought from $150 to $800.

In the matter of book-binding, we notice the introduction of a new material known as Scotch buckram, which has been used in a London library for several years. It is said to be not costly, looks well, and

is more durable than leather, and does not break or crack. The high rate of duty is in the way of its immediate use here, but we hope the duty may be removed, or that some wide-awake Yankee may learn how to make it here. Any improvement of this sort will be heartily welcomed.

The trustees whose places become vacant this year, by expiration of their terms of service, are William Proctor and Hiram Barrus.

E. APPLETON, President.
HIRAM BARRUS, Secretary.
F. O. DEWEY,
STEPHEN FOSTER,
WILLIAM PROCTOR,
H. G. WADLIN,
Trustees.

Reading, March 28, 1879.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Balance on hand as per last report	$38 95	
Drawn from town appropriation	275 00	
Received from sale of lots	53 00	
		$366 95
Paid for labor in the cemetery		339 75
Balance in hands of committee		$27 20

F. O. DEWEY,
G. C. GLEASON,
W. S. RICHARDSON,
T. B. PRATT,
S. BANCROFT,
} Committee.

Reading, March, 1879.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF ENGINEERS

OF THE

READING FIRE DEPARTMENT.

To the honorable Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Reading: Since our last report the Fire Department have responded to the following alarms: March 23, 1878, a stable owned by Mrs. M. J. Greenwood on Linden street, which was damaged about $250, and was fully insured. March 27, 1878, the steam saw and planing mill of A. J. Morey on Salem street, which was totally destroyed; loss, $7000; insured for $4300. June 6, 1878, alarm caused by a fire on woodland of J. A. Emerson on Main street; a small amount of cord-wood was destroyed, but otherwise the damage was small. July 3, 1878, a barn on the Hartshorn estate on High street, which was caused by the ignition of a load of fireworks which was standing on the barn floor; loss, about $600; insured for $350. In addition to the building about $1500 worth of fireworks were destroyed, belonging to Hyde & Co. of Boston, and also a barge valued at $500, belonging to Charles H. Moulton of this town, which were not insured. January 26, 1879, alarm caused by the burning of a quantity of bed-clothing at the house of Mrs. Pike on John street; extinguished without the aid of the department; damage trifling. Total number of alarms, 5; total loss, $9850; total insurance, $4900; loss of property over and above insurance, $4950. The apparatus is all in good condition, and manned by the same force as last year. Our water supply has been increased the past year by the addition of a large and powerful well,

located near the house of Preston Richardson on West street, for which the town made an appropriation at the last annual meeting. A fine steel alarm-bell has been placed in the tower of the Hancock engine house on Woburn street, which is found to be a great advantage to the members of the company located in that part of the town.

The expenses of the department during the year have been as follows :

Paid Chas. H. Lang, for services as Chief Engineer to May 1, 1878	$25 00
George H. Parker, for services as Assistant Engineer and clerk to May 1, 1878	17 00
Edward C. Nichols, for services as Assistant Engineer to May 1, 1878	12 00
Daniel Creesy, for services as Assistant Engineer to May 1, 1878	12 00
James Dewhurst, for services as Assistant Engineer to May 1, 1878	12 00
members of department, for services to May 1, 1878	1282 82
Horace W. Blanchard, for services as fireman to November 1, 1878	5 00
Willie E. Robinson, for services as fireman to January 1, 1879	6 67
William H. Bancroft, for services as steward of Hancock company to August 1, 1878	48 00
C. C. Cummings, for services as steward of Eagle company to November 1, 1878	60 00
N. Lambert, for services as steward of hook-and-ladder company to May 1, 1878	5 00
for watching fire at Morey's mill	4 50
watching fire on woodland of J. A. Emerson	5 00
watching fire at the Hartshorn barn	2 50
Chas. K. Gleason, labor on Linden street cistern	3 00
C. C. Cummings, labor on Linden street cistern	3 00
Amount carried forward	$1503 49

Amount brought forward	$1503 49	
C. C. Cummings, clearing snow from cisterns	2 00	
W. L. Crowe, clearing snow from cisterns	5 75	
G. D. Kingman, damage to pitchfork at Mrs. Greenwood's fire	60	
W. L. Jones, drawing engine to Wakefield	3 00	
F. J. Bancroft, drawing hose to fires	1 25	
D. Creesy, labor and material on Hancock engine house	10 21	
D. Creesy, repairs on Hancock engine	4 50	
J. H. Wentworth, labor on Hancock engine	4 00	
J. C. Gleason, for wood and coal for Eagle company	6 50	
Bancroft & Temple, coal for Hancock company	3 50	
for oil for Hancock company	2 15	
Samuel Brown, for repairs, etc	3 25	
P. McCall, for repairs and use of horse	4 85	
Hunneman & Co., new suction hose	28 00	
Hunneman & Co., repairs of hose and couplings	31 55	
Parker & Stone, refreshments at fire at Morey's mill	20 65	
Parker & Stone, two forks for hook-and-ladder carriage, and sundries	2 26	
G. W. Atkinson, for sundries	53	
A. Parker, 30 keys for Eagle engine house	3 30	
P. McCall, for straps	2 00	
Bancroft & Temple, for repairing platform on Haven street	85	
Lang's express, for expressing	3 15	
J. H. Bancroft, for leather for valves	1 75	
J. A. Blunt, for services as steward of Eagle company for Nov. and Dec., 1878	10 00	
J. A. Blunt, for repairing Eagle and Hancock hose carriages	30 00	
J. A. Blunt, for sundries	4 37	
		$1693 46
Amount unexpended		6 54
Amount of appropriation		$1700 00

In concluding we recommend that the sum of $1700 be appropriated for the expenses of the department the ensuing year.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CHARLES H. LANG, Chief Engineer.

E. C. NICHOLS,
GEO. H. PARKER,
DANIEL CREESY,
JAMES DEWHURST, } Assistants.

GEO. H. PARKER, Clerk.

Reading, March 18, 1879.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

Your Commissioners, in making their annual report, would call the attention of the town to the approach on the west side of the Boston & Maine Railroad, at the Willow street crossing, as being too narrow, and would recommend the sum of two hundred dollars to widen out the same; also recommend twenty-five hundred for ordinary repairs, and three hundred for clearing snow.

The receipts and expenses have been as follows, viz.:

ORDINARY REPAIRS.

Paid J. Breck & Sons, for tools	$13 68	
Dodge, Gilbert & Co	2 80	
Whittemore Bros	4 20	
George Beasley, for labor in 1877	108 79	
George Beasley, for labor in 1878	189 01	
Henry S. LaClair, for labor	160 40	
Henry S. LaClair, for material	08	
Henry S. LaClair, for team	93 15	
Albert Nichols, for labor	8 25	
Albert Nichols, for gravel	2 25	
E. C. Jones, for labor	34 50	
William LaClair, for labor	87 80	
William Holmes, for labor	63 00	
Warren Heyward, for labor	42 15	
Amount carried forward		$810 06

Amount brought forward	$810 06
Paid William G. Nichols, labor of man and team	25 85
Charles Wakefield, for labor of self and team	1 90
Orin N. Jones, for labor	75 00
George Ballard, for labor	31 05
B. C. Clark, for labor	6 67
Nob'e Bunker, for labor	21 15
Michael Forbes, for labor of man and t am	12 30
John E. Walker, for labor of self and team	9 00
W. K. Pratt, for labor	3 75
Emerson Smith, for labor	83 47
Timothy Riordan, for labor	46 80
H. W. Batchelder, for labor	17 70
William H. Marshall, for labor	18 00
T. F. Gould, for labor	3 50
Hugh Dulin, for labor	18 00
Daniel Putnam, for gravel	3 96
Francis Clark, for labor	3 00
John Mellen, for labor	74 92
C. A. Weston, for labor	86 46
C. A. Weston, for labor of team	121 12
C. A. Weston, for material	75
Hiram Litchfield, for labor	75
O. A. Swain, for labor	65 32
Bradley Bancroft, for labor	51 22
A. J. Varney, for labor of self, man and team	19 50
A. J. Varney, for gravel	7 80
Albert Janes, for labor	48 07
J. M. Eames, for labor	2 00
Johnson Richardson, for labor	75
Jeremiah Shannon, for labor	41 62
R. M. Boyce, for labor of self and team	29 60
R. A. Harmon, for labor of self and team	78 45
William T. Temple, for labor	4 00
M. Kelley, for labor	32 62
William L. Jones, for labor of self and team	65 60
Joseph Tourjee, for labor	12 00
D. C. Sanborn, for labor	13 50
Amount carried forward	$1947 21

Amount brought forward	$1947	21
Paid C. J. Nichols, for labor	27	45
Newton Symonds, for labor of self and team	18	00
A. F. Emerson, for labor of self and team	10	25
J. D. Jones, for labor	11	25
A. G. Emerson, for labor of self and team	11	85
John Weston, for labor	2	50
J. B. Nichols, for labor of man and team	22	80
W. W. Davis, for gravel	11	80
M. A. Stone, for powder and fuse	1	60
S. E. Parker, for labor of man and team	12	00
Daniel Sullivan, for labor	31	87
Asa Parker, for labor of self, man and team	37	95
Asa Parker, for gravel	6	25
A. L. Cole, for labor	7	20
James Kiren, for labor	23	62
J. W. Bruce, for labor	13	69
J. W. Bruce, for gravel	3	52
Charles Spear, for gravel	23	20
Henry Cook, for gravel	1	85
Patrick Barrett, for labor	28	00
D. P. Babb, for labor of self and team	12	60
A. S. Stevens, for labor of self and team	3	00
A. S. Perkins, for gravel	26	60
Chas. C. Green, for labor of self and team	9	00
Timothy Canty, for labor of man and team	4	50
G. R. Turner, for gravel	2	90
G. R. Turner, for use of roller		50
N. E. Hill, for gravel	1	08
H. E. Nichols, for removing ledge	10	00
C. W. Kelley, for gravel	3	92
R. C. Totten, for labor	3	54
Henry Gorus, for labor	19	05
Reuben Melendy, for labor	6	30
Geo. H. Flint, for labor	7	50
C. H. Lang, for labor		25
Daniel Nichols, for labor	18	23
D. M. Nichols, for labor	17	77
Amount carried forward		$2400 60

Amount brought forward	$2400 60	
Paid E. P. Nichols, for labor	21 55	
Augustus Fultz, for labor	17 70	
R. B. Nichols, for labor of self and team	42 68	
J. A. Bancroft, for labor	18 00	
William Frost, for labor	2 25	
C. H. Ballard, for labor	25	
Cummings' express, for labor	95	
J. A. Blunt, for labor	3 00	
H. W. Kummer, for labor	6 00	
E. B. Eames, for labor	2 30	
		$2515 28

Cr.

Cash received of C. W. Kelley, for loam	$1 25	
W. L. Jones, for loam	1 50	
D. C. Sanborn, for loam	50	
William Carter, for loam	3 00	
G. C. Gleason, for loam	8 50	
Michael Forbes, for loam	1 25	
		16 00
		$2499 28
Unexpended		72
		$2500 00

BRIDGES.

Paid George Beasley, for labor of self and team	$9 60	
Citizens' Gas Light Company, for gas	1 86	
town of North Reading, for repairs of bridges in 1877	33 40	
R. D. Wilkins, for labor and stone	49 00	
Boston Machine Company, for grates and frames	18 92	
Boston & Maine R. R. Company, for freight	1 09	
Henry S. LaClair, for labor	18 15	
Amount carried forward		$132 02

Amount brought forward	$132 03	
Paid Henry S. LaClair, for labor of team	6 90	
Henry S. LaClair, for material	32	
William L. Jones, for labor	40	
A. B. Day, for labor	9 00	
O. N. Jones, for labor	11 55	
J. Damon, Jr., for labor	3 00	
Emerson Smith, for labor	1 75	
Charles A. Weston, for labor	28 20	
Charles A. Weston, for labor of team	8 70	
J. A. Bancroft, for labor	2 00	
John Doucette, for labor of self and man	64 50	
John Doucette, for stone and cement	12 95	
Daniel Creesy, for stone	2 00	
William T. Temple, for labor	2 91	
J. A. Blunt, for labor	2 57	
Daniel Sanborn, for labor	1 80	
John Mellen, for labor	3 90	
Bradley Bancroft, for labor	3 15	
Albert Janes, for labor	90	
Waldo Bros., for drain pipe	3 24	
Timothy Riordan, for labor	45	
Edward Parker, for cement	40	
C. H. Moulton, for edgestone	4 25	
Bancroft & Temple, for labor and stock	1 30	
N. W. C. Carter	2 88	
William L. Crowe, for labor	1 50	
		$312 54
Cr. by cash of Citizens' Gas Light Co. for extra labor at corner of John and Pleasant streets		15 00
		$297 54
Unexpended		2 46
Appropriation		$300 00

CLEARING SNOW 1878–9.

Paid Henry Batchelder, for labor	$	60
C. A. Weston, for labor	19	20
C. A. Weston, for labor of team	12	15
James Wilson, for labor	1	80
Henry Goodwin, for labor	1	20
J. M. Eames, for labor	4	50
A. Janes, for labor	1	05
Samuel R Roby, for labor	2	30
O. A. Swain, for labor	6	15
A. J. Varney, for labor of self, man and team	4	80
John Mellen, for labor	2	55
A. S. Johnson, for labor of self and team	6	60
Johnson Richardson, for labor	2	25
Bradley Bancroft, for labor		60
George Richardson, for labor	1	50
Martin Forbes, for labor		30
J. D. Jones, for labor	1	20
Wm. G. Nichols, for labor of self and team	1	40
William Holmes, for labor	1	12
O. N. Jones, for labor	1	82
A. F. Emerson, for labor of self and team	1	87
Charles Wakefield, for labor of self and team	2	40
Wm. L. Jones, for labor of self and team	7	70
George Beasley, for labor of self and team	16	50
H. S. LaClair, for labor	7	10
H. W. Batchelder, for labor	1	65
E. S. Gleason, for labor		34
Rodney Gleason, for labor		34
George Batchelder, for labor		30
William L. Crowe, for labor		60
J. A. Smith, for labor		52
Daniel Nichols, for labor	2	21
G. W. Nichols, for labor		45
E. P. Nichols, for labor	5	47
R. B. Nichols, for labor	10	05
A. Fultz, for labor		67
Amount carried forward	$131	26

Amount brought forward	$131 26	
Paid J. H. Verity, for labor	1 27	
R. C. Totten, for labor on snow plow	2 11	
A. S. Stevens, for labor	1 20	
D. P. Babb, for labor	90	
Michael Forbes, for labor	1 20	
R. A. Harmon, for labor	5 10	
C. H. Moulton, for labor of self, man and team	36 07	
C. H. Moulton, for snow plow	16 00	
		$195 11
Unexpended		104 89
Appropriation		$300 00

BUILDING CURTIS STREET.

R. D. Wilkins, for labor	$72 15	
R. D. Wilkins, for bound stone	1 68	
James A. Bancroft, for surveying	8 00	
James A. Bancroft, for labor	75	
Patrick Barrett, for labor	12 00	
O. A. Swain, for labor	14 40	
John Mellen, for labor	14 10	
Albert Janes, for labor	11 85	
Timothy Riordan, for labor	12 60	
Emerson Smith, for labor	14 70	
S. E. Parker, for labor of man and team	21 30	
Wm. G. Bryant, for labor of man and team	23 40	
P. H. Jaquith, for labor of man and team	1 35	
C. A. Weston, for labor	18 40	
C. A. Weston, for labor of team	10 50	
Eastman Austin, for labor	8 10	
J. A. Blunt, for labor	75	
J. M. Eames, for labor	75	
		246 73
Unexpended		53 27
Appropriation		$300 00

There are about twelve rods of wall to be laid to finish the work on the above-mentioned street.

BUILDING ASH STREET.

Paid O. A. Swain, for labor	$25 50	
Bradley Bancroft, for labor	17 70	
Albert Janes, for labor	25 05	
Emerson Smith, for labor	32 02	
John Mellen, for labor	25 80	
Daniel Sullivan, for labor	21 45	
C. A. Weston, for labor	37 40	
C. A. Weston, for labor of team	34 65	
P. H. Jaquith, for labor of man and team	13 05	
R. A. Harmon, for labor of self and team	42 90	
Patrick Barrett, for labor	31 02	
Timothy Riordan, for labor	28 95	
George Beasley, for labor of self and team	22 19	
James Sullivan, for labor	4 65	
Timothy Canty, for labor of man and team	3 00	
A. S. Perkins, for gravel	7 50	
R. C. Totten, for labor	4 30	
A. S. Stevens, for labor of self and team	27 30	
Michael Kelley, for labor	19 95	
F. J. Bancroft, for labor of man and team	8 70	
J. A. Bancroft, for labor	4 00	
Hugh Dulin, for labor	1 50	
R. D. Wilkins, for bound stone	4 30	
		$442 88
Unexpended		57 12
Appropriation		$500 00

BUILDING WINTER STREET.

H. S. LaClair, for labor	$10 00	
H. S. LaClair, for labor of team	7 50	
T. F. Gould, for labor	1 90	
O. N. Jones, for labor	7 50	
Henry Gorus, for labor	7 50	
Warren Heyward, for labor	4 50	
R. D. Wilkins, for bound stone	1 12	
Amount carried forward		$40 02

Amount brought forward	$40 02	
Paid George H. Flint, for labor	2 25	
William L. Jones, for labor of self and team	1 10	
J. A. Blunt, for labor	56	
J. A. Bancroft, for labor	40	
Timothy Riordan, for labor	30	
Noble Bunker, for labor	2 25	
Charles Kelley, for gravel	40	
Hugh Dulin, for labor	30	
		$47 58
Unexpended		2 42
Appropriation		$50 00

BUILDING MIDDLESEX AVENUE.

R. D. Wilkins, for labor	$14 30	
R. D. Wilkins, for bound stone	1 40	
C. H. Lang, for labor	15	
Timothy Riordan, for labor	45	
D. P. Babb, for labor	2 00	
Hugh Dulin, for labor	45	
J. A. Bancroft, for labor	3 60	
J. A. Blunt, for labor	1 02	
A. B. Day, for labor	24 75	
T. F. Gould, for labor	3 50	
W. J. Bessey, for labor	18 60	
O. N. Jones, for labor	24 90	
Bellows S. Mason, for material	1 44	
Timothy Canty, for labor of man and team	36 30	
Henry W. Kummer, for labor	1 50	
H. S. LaClair, for labor	31 60	
H. S. LaClair, for labor of team	24 90	
R. B. Jackson, for labor	23 40	
M. A. Stone, for powder	75	
R. M. Boyce, for labor of self and team	10 27	
		225 28
Amount carried forward		$225 28

Amount brought forward		$225 28

Cr.

By stone carried to Main street culvert	$10 00	
cash received of R. B. Jackson, for loam	1 00	
N. P. Pratt, for loam	5 00	
R. M. Boyce, for loam	1 00	
heirs of C. B. Holden, for loam	12 25	
H. S. LaClair, for loam	50	
Amos Temple, for loam	25	
		$30 00
		$195 28
Unexpended		4 72
Appropriation		$200 00

MAIN STREET CULVERT.

Paid R. D. Wilkins, for labor and materials	145 00	
John Doucette, for labor	1 50	
John Mellen, for labor	3 45	
George Beasley, for labor of self and team ..	6 00	
Emerson Smith, for labor	3 50	
C. A. Weston, for labor	6 80	
C. A. Weston, for labor of team	3 60	
O. A. Swain, for labor	3 30	
Timothy Riordan, for labor	1 50	
P. H. Jaquith, for labor	45	
Jeremiah Shannon, for labor	1 80	
A. S. Perkins, for gravel	3 33	
M. W. Eaton, for labor	1 80	
Patrick Barrett, for labor	1 65	
R. A Harmon, for labor of self and team ...	3 60	
for stone from Middlesex avenue	10 00	
		197 30
Unexpended		202 70
Appropriation		$400 00

MAIN STREET SIDEWALK.

Paid George Beasley, for labor of team	$17 25	
C. H. Moulton, for covering stone	30 00	
H. W. Kummer, for labor	1 50	
John Mellen, for labor	21 15	
O. A. Swain, for labor	21 15	
Francis Clark, for labor	5 25	
C. A. Weston, for labor	27 20	
C. A. Weston, for labor of team	15 75	
Emerson Smith, for labor	23 80	
Patrick Barrett, for labor	19 65	
E. M. Remick, for labor	8 75	
A. S. Stevens, for labor	8 75	
R. M. Boyce, for labor of self, man and team	2 20	
P. H. Jaquith, for labor of man and team	36 30	
P. H. Jaquith, for stone	1 00	
Timothy Riordan, for labor	17 40	
James Sullivan, for labor	16 50	
Albert Janes, for labor	15	
F. J. Bancroft, for labor of man and team	12 30	
A. S. Perkins, stone and gravel	10 00	
R. C. Totten, for labor	3 31	
		$299 36
Unexpended		64
Appropriation		$300 00

JAMES A. BANCROFT,
CHARLES A. WESTON,
HENRY S. LaCLAIR,
} Road Commissioners of Reading.

Reading, March 1, 1879.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF READING

For the Year 1877–78.

REPORT.

The School Committee for the year ending March, 1879, respectfully submit the accompanying report:

Mr. Walter S. Parker, the former chairman of the board, and who had been a member for several years, resigned early in the year. Mr. Parker was an earnest friend of education and one of the most useful and valued members of the committee. The vacancy in membership was filled by the election of Mr. Henry G. Kittredge. Since then the organization of the board has been as follows:

Horace G. Wadlin, *Chairman.*

Charles F. Brown, *Secretary.*

SUB-COMMITTEES.

High School—Messrs. Wadlin and Kittredge.
First Grammar—Mr. Kittredge.
Second Grammar—Mr. Wadlin.
Third Grammar—Mr. Davis.
Upper Medium—Mr. Wightman.
Lower Medium—Mr. Brown.
Upper Primary, Union Street—Mr. Wadlin.
Lower Primary, Union Street—The entire committee.
Walnut Street School—Mr. Brown.
Woburn Street School—Mr. Durgin.
Lowell Street School—Mr. Davis.
Main Street School—Mr. Wightman.
Haverhill Street School—Mr. Kittredge.

It is the duty of the sub-committees to have general oversight of the schools in their charge, and to render the teacher such advice and

assistance as she may require. The responsibility for the schools to which they are assigned falls primarily upon them, and complaints or suggestions concerning their administration should be made to the committee through them.

There are in the town fourteen schools, classified as follows: One High School, four Grammar, two Intermediate, three Primary, and four ungraded or mixed schools. None of these schools stand alone. Each one forms part of a system that, beginning with the primary, ends with the high school. In what we have to say, therefore, we shall speak of them as a whole, except in certain points, where, for obvious reasons, particular remarks are required. Taken together they are in good condition, provided with competent teachers, and we believe them to be constantly improving in excellence. Though we have not entirely escaped the difficulties which sometimes arise, they have been local and temporary, and do not affect the general progress. During the last four years a course of study has been adopted, proper examinations introduced as tests of progress, and the entire work of the schools systematized. The course has been modified as experience seemed to require, and will continue to receive the attention of the committee. Much has been done, also, towards the introduction of improved text-books. Considerable progress has been made in methods of teaching, and in various ways the condition of the schools improved. The attendance is good, and in this respect Reading ranks eleventh in a list of 342 towns in the State. Very few cases of truancy occur, and the services of a truant officer are never required. Deportment is excellent; it rarely becomes necessary to administer corporal punishment or to suspend a pupil. The majority seem interested in their work and disposed to assist the teacher in the maintenance of good order. A growing interest in the schools is manifested by the constantly increasing number of visitors, especially in the centre of the town, and on the part of the pupils is sometimes shown by their desire to render the room attractive by pictures, and by pots of flowers contributed and cared for by members of the school.

The committee have considered a plan for the improvement of the Woburn street Grammar and Walnut street Mixed schools, and hope to report progress toward better grading therein. The latter suffers extremely from its ungraded condition, and should be divided, if possible, and placed under separate teachers. The former has suffered from causes which it is not necessary to detail here. They are well

understood and regretted by the committee, and it is believed will be overcome in the future.

Miss Maria J. Bancroft succeeded Miss Loring as teacher of this school at the beginning of the fall term, but resigned on account of ill-health at the close of the fifth week of the winter term. Mrs. F. B. Haines was selected to fill the vacancy.

No other change has been made in the corps of teachers, except the election of Miss Mary L. Stinchfield, assistant in the High School, in place of Miss Kate L. Tower, who resigned to accept another situation at the close of the spring term.* It is worthy of note that the teacher of the Union street Upper Primary, Mrs. Goodridge, closes with the winter term her twentieth year of service in Reading. This entire period has been spent in the primary department, some of our other teachers having received their early instruction from her. She is especially adapted to this grade, and never fails to secure the affection of her pupils.

Mr. Ulmer H. Manning has continued instructor in music, although the amount to be expended in this department was reduced during the last two terms of the year, and the time devoted to practice shortened. Mr. Manning has met with good success in his efforts, and deserves the commendation of the committee. The exercises in music at the annual exhibitions were highly enjoyed by those present, and reflected credit upon the instructor.

The course of study at the

HIGH SCHOOL

has been revised during the year and arranged to cover three years' instruction. It completes the course pursued in the lower schools and gives special prominence to the English branches. Arithmetic and its practical application to the affairs of commerce, English grammar applied in composition, and commercial and physical geography are now included in the course. Book-keeping will receive more attention, and concise reviews of the common branches will be required during the last term of the third year. The committee have thus arranged the work of the High School, so as to make it positively advantageous, in a practical sense, for every pupil in town to avail

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* Since the above was written Miss Howes of the Lower Medium has resigned, the vacancy being filled by the transfer of Miss Lindsay, leaving a vacancy at the Walnut street School.

himself of its benefits. The school was never in better condition than it is in to-day, and was never more worthy of support. Twenty-five pupils graduated in June last, the exercises being attended by a crowded audience.

As the expediency of providing for the higher education of children by taxation is sometimes questioned and the high schools adversely criticised, it may be well to see how our policy in this respect is regarded abroad. The report of the French Educational Commission at the Centennial Exposition, on public instruction in the United States, just issued, contains these words: "So far as social equality can possibly be reached on this earth it is attained by the American high schools. In other countries it is to be feared that the children of different classes, though brought together for a while in the public schools, must soon find themselves separated by the whole distance between their respective families. In the United States every effort is made to delay and diminish this separation, *to carry as far as possible, and as high as possible, that common instruction which effaces the distinction of rich and poor.* If it be true that the prosperity of a republic is in the direct ratio of the replenishment of its middle classes, of the abundance and facility in the indefinite recruiting of these classes, then the high school of the United States, *whatever it may cost*, is the best investment of national capital that can possibly be made."

THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

are in good repair, and, with perhaps one exception, are of sufficient capacity for the accommodation of the pupils. The exception relates to the room occupied by the Union street Lower Primary. This room is frequently overcrowded—especially in the summer—and it is proper to refer to its condition more particularly. It has no entry conveniences worthy the name, is small, and poorly ventilated. No consideration save that of economy would justify its continued use. The evils might be remedied by alterations in the Medium building without excessive expense. The coming of better times will, we trust, be marked by an appropriation to carry out this much-needed improvement. The plastering upon the Lowell street building, which was in a defective condition, was entirely renewed during the summer vacation, and the building painted and put in thorough repair throughout. A full statement of the cost of these and other minor repairs is appended to this report.

The school rooms are all supplied with good blackboards, wall maps, charts, etc. Several have received new globes during the year.

The First Grammar School has a small but well-selected collection of reference books, purchased from a fund acquired by the school.

The High School possesses a fair amount of chemical and philosophical apparatus, and also has the use of a valuable mineralogical collection owned by the principal. A small sum has been expended annually, for several years past, in the purchase of maps, charts, and similar aids in teaching, and the practice should be continued. The pupils should also be encouraged to make collections of minerals and other natural objects, to be properly labelled and become the property of the schools. These would frequently be found useful in the illustration of subjects which arise in the lessons.

To prepare the pupil for the duties of life is the object of the schools. Those who control them should therefore clearly comprehend what is requisite for this preparation. Upon this our success will largely depend, for the end sought will govern the means to be employed to reach it.

If the aim be merely to fill the mind with facts, and secure rapid execution of certain processes, the work of the teacher will be devoted to methodical drilling, until the pupil can repeat the information he has memorized and perform a few mechanical operations. But the mere possession of knowledge, however important in itself, will be of no practical value unless mental training accompany it. Education is nothing less than the development of our powers. It includes the improvement of the *physique*, the quickening of the moral sense, the culture of the observing powers, the training of the reason, the exercise of the imagination, and the strengthening of the will. These are the natural possessions of man, and it is their harmonious development alone which can assist his progress.

The modern schools are frequently compared with those of the past, and not always to the credit of the former. But any comparison of results which leaves out of account our changed social conditions will be erroneous. The habits of life in the past were well adapted to foster the manly qualities of the New England character. The boy who knew that his opportunities for instruction were limited, and that at best but a few short months were at his disposal, was spurred to make the utmost of this brief time; while out of school, on the farm or as an apprentice in the workshop, he came in actual contact

with men and things, and thus acquired an insight into affairs which was invaluable to him. In the struggles necessary to overcome the hard conditions of his life, he obtained that discipline which enabled him to take fast hold of every advantage and push his way in the world. His mental horizon was narrow, but, so far as his education extended, it fitted him to become an honest, serviceable citizen, shrewd, practical, often opinionated.

The obvious defect of his training was its lack of breadth. To overcome this, and to give a wider culture, has been the effort of the public schools. To further this end the high school was made part of the system. Gradually the school year was lengthened and the whole manner of conducting school work changed.

Meanwhile our social condition was rapidly modified. The population became dense and wealth increased. The industries of the Commonwealth underwent a change. The standard of literary culture was slowly elevated throughout the State. The college raised its requirements for admission, and its influence was felt downwards through the whole system of our schools. The industrial changes brought about by the introduction of machinery have completely destroyed the old apprentice system. Except the children of foreign parentage in factory towns, and those in the remoter farming districts of the State, it is now rare for the child to do much manual labor during his school life. It can hardly be otherwise, for many reasons, in our present social state. His attention is fixed almost entirely upon books. He seldom has the discipline which in the past was undoubtedly gained from healthful manual work. He has small opportunity to enjoy "that labor of the hands which is the way to much wisdom." Whatever discipline he receives must be given him in the school.

It cannot be doubted that in seeking to broaden the intellectual culture of the child we have sometimes fallen into error. Too many studies have been introduced at one time. The work of the school has been too largely devoted to cramming the pupils with a mass of knowledge for which his mind was but illy prepared, and which he was totally unable to assimilate. At the end of his school days, if thrown upon his own resources, he found himself in far too many instances but poorly equipped for life. More and more these errors are becoming apparent. In the best schools of our time, earnest efforts are making to overcome them. The growing demand for industrial education is a significant sign of the reaction which is setting

in. More intelligent methods of teaching are employed. We believe much progress has been made during these last years, and in this progress the schools of Reading have shared. But while it is said—with any show of reason—that, owing to present methods of instruction, "our children at twenty-one know how to reduce vulgar fractions to decimals, but they know nothing practical,"* it will not do to rest content. We hold as our grandest possession our system of public schools; but to point with pride to that system will not suffice in the presence of charges like this. Such remarks are a menace to every one interested in its welfare. To secure results that will effectually disprove them every teacher should aspire. Many of the criticisms passed upon the schools are painfully sweeping and unfair, but intelligent discussion cannot fail to hasten the time when we shall reach the golden mean between the limited training of the past and the lack of training so often apparent in the present—when we shall give the pupil not only acquaintance with books, but discipline of mind. In order to develop

THE MENTAL FACULTIES

of the pupil, it is required that the teacher understand their nature and order of growth, and she will be the best teacher who most clearly comprehends the structure of the mind, and how to draw out and cultivate its powers. It is not enough that she have a knowledge of the text book. She must be able to make its abstract details real and living things to the pupil. She needs the power of insight into the nature of the child, that she may put before him the topics of study in such a way as to awaken activity of mind. Just as the muscles of the arm become firm and strong by action, so the mind is strengthened by use; and neglect of its powers during the formative years of the pupil's life will bring as sure decay to the intellect as lack of exercise brings to the limbs. Thus the future of the child for good or ill is influenced by the methods pursued by the teacher. Here we touch a graver matter than the question of what class of knowledge or information it is expedient to teach in the schools. This concerns the welfare of that which is the source of all power in the pupil—the mind itself. And the responsibility of those who control his education is correspondingly increased. The child who is helped over the difficult problem in arithmetic, or who is shown that which it is possible for him to discover for himself, is the victim of mistaken kindness. Not only will the knowledge so acquired be of little permanent worth

* Rev. E. E. Hale.

to him, but he is deprived of just that opportunity of exercising the active powers of his mind which is necessary for its growth.

THE OBSERVING POWERS

are the first to come into action. Through these the mind is provided with material for the future exercise of its higher functions. The teacher should assist their development in every possible way. The broadest culture and the ripest experience may be made available in the primaries, in supplying the opening intellect with more and more knowledge of actual things. This may be done by pictures, by talks upon the subjects presented in the reading books, and by lively object-lessons upon the articles in the school room, the flowers, pebbles, or anything to be met with in the daily walks to and from the school; upon the materials of food and clothing with which the child is familiar. The child's habit of asking questions should be encouraged and the questions answered so far as possible. Not only should no opportunity be lost to bring to his mind a clear idea of the things themselves, but the pupil should be required to tell what he sees. Lead him to be accurate in his description. Let his attention be called to their marked peculiarities, such as their roundness, smoothness, color, lustre, hardness and the like. Later on

THE REASONING POWERS

come into use. Reasoning is nothing more than seeing the relations which things or subjects bear to each other. Its results depend very much upon the clearness with which these things or subjects are presented in the mind. Only the adult mind is capable of reasoning from abstractions, therefore all elementary teaching should be objective. This requires that the attention of the pupil be fixed directly upon the objects themselves or upon mental pictures of objects brought up in the mind. The memory should never be charged with abstractions. This principle is violated whenever definitions or symbols are given to the pupil before his mind has been prepared for their reception by connecting them with the objects or subjects to which they relate. Words have no power except as they stand for ideas. The letters c-a-t taken by themselves convey no meaning to the child beginning his primer. The word which they form will not at first. But show the child a picture of a cat, and he immediately perceives its relation to the animal with which he is acquainted. Now bring before him the word and lead him to see that that also stands for the cat, and it will become to him a symbol of something he understands. Now it means something real to him. Let him become

familiar with it, and, whenever he sees it, it will recall to his mind a cat. Then the word may be taken apart, and he may be shown that it is built up of three little characters: *c-a* and *t*. These abstract signs have thus been joined to the things to which they relate.

The principle is violated, too, when the child beginning the study of geography is required to recite verbatim the matter of the book before it is made plain by copious illustrations, by references to the natural phenomena with which the pupil is familiar, and by object-teaching with a globe. It is violated whenever the pupil in arithmetic is told to learn the rule, and made to follow its requirements mechanically, before it has been brought out, step by step, by induction, and before the requirements of the problem are clearly understood. All numbers should first be taught in the concrete. The development of

THE POWER OF EXPRESSION

should be made an important aim in all instruction. "English grammar," says Kerl—and nearly all grammarians make the same statement, "treats of the laws and forms of the English language so as to teach us how to speak and write it correctly. Grammar, as taught in our schools, is such an analysis of language, and examination of its parts, as may guide the student to correctness in his own choice and combination of words." Now the method which has prevailed of pursuing this study fails to accomplish what is here set forth as its prime end. Nothing that cannot be made interesting to a child can be studied by him with profit. The drilling upon rules and elements, and the endless analysis and parsing of the past, failed to give the student command over the language.

There is but one way to learn to speak and write any language correctly, and that is by practice under judicious criticism. Practice in writing should begin as soon as the pupil can form easy sentences upon his slate. It should not be given in the form of set compositions, once in a week or month, upon subjects the pupil knows little about; but ordinary descriptions of the things about him should be frequently required. Familiar letters to the teacher might be written. Let these exercises supplement the object lesson. They need not be models of literary style, but plain, simple accounts of common things.

Conversation should enter much more largely than now into the entire school course. Most young children like to talk. In the primaries a question is sure to bring a shower of answers, so ready are they to put what they know into words. But as they grow older

they lose confidence, and seldom acquire the power of distinct and accurate statement. As before remarked, let the pupil tell what he sees. Subject him to the kindly criticism of his associates. Point out the defects in his language. Make him feel that the end of all this practice is to enable him to express himself clearly. Every pupil should not be required to explain his work or recite his lesson in the same way. No two minds are precisely alike. The unvarying explanation is apt to be the mechanical formula, memorized but not understood. Let everything be exact but not mechanical. The spontaneity of the child should be encouraged.

If this plan were pursued under the direction of a judicious teacher, can any one doubt the result? Should we hear as frequently as now this answer from a pupil when questioned concerning an operation; "I know how to do it, but I can't explain it." Or find him abashed at a question framed in terms slightly different from those to which he is accustomed? The art of expression, both oral and written, should be taught throughout the course. A change was made this year in the text-books in grammar. It is not intended that the pupil shall hereafter be burdened with grammar as a science until he has received such elementary instruction in language as shall prepare him therefor. Small time will be given to parsing as mental gymnastics. The methods employed are somewhat novel, but if the plan proposed realizes the expectations concerning it the results will justify its adoption. If not, let some other take its place. A text-book should be used as a guide merely. A competent teacher is superior to all text-books. The definitions and forms of the book are to crystalize what has first been brought out orally.

THE STUDY OF HISTORY

will furnish much material for the cultivation of the pupil's power of language. The test of proficiency here, as elsewhere, should be his ability to give in his own words the leading points of the lesson. Nothing is more interesting to many children than stories of adventure and discovery—the brave deeds of noble men. American history is largely made up of such elements, and if properly presented will enlist the child's attention and engage his mind. It is possible, however, for him to spend three years upon the study, and, in six months thereafter, know very little about it, and, worse still, have the subject become so dull that its very name is distasteful. On the contrary, under good teaching he not only may gain a knowledge of the salient points in our country's history, but may have his taste for

reading directed into beneficial channels. The teacher should never be at loss for illustrations and anecdotes bearing upon the lesson. In one of our rooms a piece of ancient pottery from the west, accompanied by a brief account of its origin, no doubt did more to bring the mound builders vividly before the class than all the previous memorizing of the text-book.

We who are familiar with a subject often forget how far removed from the actual its details appear when first presented to a child. The secret of the novelist's success lies in his ability to make us feel that we are in the midst of the scenes and characters described. In this very domain of history, it is Macauley's power of vitalizing the incidents of the story that renders his pages so fascinating. The teacher may profit from such examples.

Higginson's "Young Folks' History of the United States" and Mrs. Monroe's admirable "Story of our Country" lie upon the desk of one of our teachers. The pupils have free access to them, and are never tired of reading history when so attractively presented. The two completed volumes of Baker's "Library of History for Young People"—"The Voyages of Vasco de Gama," and "The Story of Pizzarro" — have recently been added to the Public Library. These books are not only interesting to the young, but are calculated to inspire a taste for historical and biographical literature. Carleton's "Boys of '76" and "The Story of Liberty" are kindred works; while for the more advanced pupil, who is studying ancient history and the heroic age of Greece, there are Hawthorne's "Wonder Book" and "Tanglewood Tales," and Mr. Alfred Church's "Stories from Homer" and "Stories from Virgil." Other similar works will be added from time to time, and the teacher may render good service by pointing them out to the student of history.

And here we cannot forbear alluding to the opportunity open to the teacher of fostering a taste for healthful

GENERAL READING

on the part of the pupil. In one of the schools some of "Rollo's Travels in Europe," by Jacob Abbott, were given to the class as reading-books during the general exercises customary on Friday afternoons. The pupils were taking up Europe in their lessons in geography. In these books they found narrative descriptions of the buildings, people and customs of the countries about which they were studying. Their interest in geography was increased, and they became acquainted with a series of books, not one of which they had

previously read, and in which — as in everything Jacob Abbott has written — instruction and pure morals were blended. And before this, in the same school, pupils were found eagerly reading the novels of Mrs. Holmes, unaware of the existence of books so interesting as these by Abbott! The use of the "Nursery," as a companion to the reading-book in the primary classes, was followed by an increased interest in the reading lessons. The pictures and familiar stories contained in this magazine at once attract the pupil. Children read with spirit, and usually with proper emphasis, what they understand and are interested in. If we were able to supplement the "Nursery" with similar literature in the schools above, it cannot be doubted that two things would follow: first, a marked improvement in enunciation and emphasis; second, the development of a taste for something higher than the trash which is coming to form so large a part of the mental food of the young. The "Child's Book of Nature," introduced in the medium schools some years ago, was a step in the right direction, but we are only beginning to do what might be done. It is to be hoped that in the future more liberal provision may be made for aiding the mental and moral growth of the child by proper reading material in the schools. Until then much may be accomplished by the enthusiastic teacher who will take the trouble to introduce good books for use in the general exercises, and who will direct her pupils to such healthful works in the Public Library as are adapted to their ages.

And what shall we say of the necessity for showing the pupil the bearing which certain studies have upon

THE PRACTICAL AFFAIRS OF LIFE?

It is the teacher's duty to connect the school room with the world outside, and to teach the practical application of the principles unfolded to the varied operations of human industry and affairs — the use of money, the elementary transactions of commerce, the application of weights and measures, and the like. Nothing connected with any study that can possibly aid in training the senses and the judgment, such as estimating distances, map-drawing, etc., should be neglected; for these directly tend to prepare the pupil for future usefulness, and help to interweave the school work with the pursuits of life.

Besides all this effort to develop the intellect and train the senses, the teacher should ponder long and seriously upon the duty which rests upon her of quickening the moral nature of the child.

should accompany intellectual culture at every stage of its progress. Some one has truly remarked that, though children have no intellectual life at first, they have moral life. The teacher should guard at every point against the temptations that frequently beset the innocence of the children under their control, and the evils that sometimes appear in the schools where many pupils are gathered. And especially should she seek to impress upon the young the virtues of honesty, truthfulness and fair dealing in all the associations of school life. She should be watchful of the behavior of her pupils upon the street, and take the first opportunity of correcting rude manners and improper conduct. How she shall do all this must be left to her own tact and discretion. There should be as little preaching about the matter as possible. Much may be done by relating to the pupils a story embodying the faults observed, and leading them to draw out and apply the moral. The conduct of the personages referred to in history should be analyzed, and the difference in motives plainly put before the class. The moral taught in the reading lessons might also be dwelt upon.

More than all, the teacher must exemplify in her intercourse with her pupils the virtues she desires them to practice. She cannot be too scrupulous in her methods of conducting school work. The slightest unfairness in her treatment of pupils or the mildest deceptions in examinations or records may work great injury to her influence in the school. Children are quick to discover the motives of an action, and often understand the causes of conduct which we think quite beyond their penetration. "During the time of study and of play the teacher should observe the moral conduct of the pupil, and should lose no opportunity offered for training him to love that which is beautiful and true. A sound morality may be taught and made the basis of all moral conduct, and still no approach be made towards interfering in any way with the peculiar opinions that give rise to sects and parties. No teacher whose mind has been set free, by a liberal education, from prejudice, and from an inclination to make forms superior to principles, will have any tendency to introduce into his moral teaching that which is not essential to good morals, nor to the fundamental principles of Christianity."*

Closely allied to this subject of moral training is that of

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* Hon. J. W. Dickinson.

SCHOOL GOVERNMENT.

Here the lesson to be taught is self-control. The school should be a democracy where all are interested in maintaining order, not a despotism ruled by a petty monarch. The moral sentiment among the pupils should cause an offender to feel that he has not merely broken a rule established by the teacher, but disturbed the well-being of the school. The pupils should stand upon an equality in their intercourse with each other, and all should receive equal consideration from the teacher. No class jealousy should be allowed to exist. Every one should understand that no disgrace can attach to a pupil, except through failure on his part to do his best to fulfil the teacher's requirements. A resort to scolding or threatening by the teacher inspires neither respect nor obedience.

We cannot close these brief hints without a few words of personal reference to

THE TEACHERS.

It will be apparent that to carry out the spirit of these suggestions will require earnestness on the part of the teacher. If she would be successful in her work she must not rest satisfied with giving her attention to the school during the five hours of each day's session. She must employ every aid she can discover to accomplish the results sought. She must keep her mind fresh and open to the advances which are being made in every department of knowledge, and by reading and observation prepare for her work. She must be full of enthusiasm and energy before her classes. She must, in short, be everything she wishes her pupils to become. We believe our teachers to be faithful and desirous of doing all in their power for the welfare of the schools. That they should all be equally efficient is not to be expected. It would be invidious to draw any comparison in this report. We are all liable to errors both in judgment and execution. We sympathize most heartily with them in the difficulties and discouragements which constantly arise in their work. We know well how hard it is to reduce theory to practice, and realize that the shortcomings and unfulfilments of the best-laid plans of school work are often as apparent to them as to those who so freely criticise their efforts. We have found them ready to adopt any suggestion which seemed to promise improvement, and have no doubt that they will continue to labor in the same direction in the future.

The qualities needed for success in teaching are rare, and not to be valued by a money standard. They entitle the possessor to the

respect and consideration of society. No teacher will be retained by the committee who is unfaithful, or who is found after trial to be unadapted to the work. And while the committee and the town have a right to expect the best service of which each teacher is capable, the teacher who is doing her best — though that be far short of perfection — should receive the sympathy and co-operation of every parent so long as she holds her position. Without this support no teacher, however competent, can succeed. She should be made to feel, also, that her services are appreciated by the community, and that its recompense to her will be limited only by its ability.

EXPENSES AND ESTIMATES.

As we have alluded to the improvement secured in our schools during the past four years, we also ask your attention to the steady reduction of expenses during that time. Every opportunity for retrenchment that would not injure the condition of the schools has been improved, and a total reduction in expenses of over 26 per cent. has been effected during the period named. The expense per pupil in Reading has been reduced more than 15 per cent. since 1874, while the decrease per pupil in the State at large has been but 6 1-2 per cent. in the same time.

While many towns have made but small reduction until recently, and are suffering from the effects of sudden retrenchment, entailing loss of teachers and consequent disturbance of schools, we have been able, by your generosity in making appropriations, to make this saving gradually, so that all friction has been avoided and steady progress maintained. There is, of course, a limit to the reduction of expenses beyond which it is not wise to pass, but we believe the record we present entitles the committee to your confidence that no expenditure will be authorized by them which is not consistent with true economy, nor necessary for the efficiency of the schools.

If instruction in music be discontinued, we think the sum of $8000 will suffice for the maintenance of the schools during the coming year, with $700 additional for incidentals. We recommend that these amounts be appropriated.

The terms of Messrs. Wadlin, Kittredge and Durgin expire, leaving three vacancies to be filled at the ensuing annual meeting.

The usual statistics, reports of expenses, etc., are contained in the appendix, to which attention is invited.

Respectfully submitted:

HORACE G. WADLIN, Chairman,
CHARLES F. BROWN,
WILLIAM F. DURGIN,
W. WALLACE DAVIS,
HENRY G. KITTREDGE,
WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN,
} School Committee of Reading.

Reading, March 14, 1879.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population of Reading		3186
Number of children between 5 and 15 years of age, May, 1878		475
Amount appropriated for instruction, fuel and care of rooms	$8000 00	
Amount appropriated for incidentals	700 00	
Amount received from State school fund	200 85	
Total receipts		$8900 85
Expended for instruction, fuel and care of rooms	$8016 00	
Expended for incidentals	612 08	
Total expenditures		8628 08
Balance unexpended		$272 77

PUPILS.

Whole number of pupils enrolled during the year	590
Average whole number (from returns of each term)	503
Average daily attendance	457
Number of pupils admitted to High School	34
Average age of pupils admitted to High School	15 years.

Length of terms: 1st, 13 weeks; 2d, 12 weeks; 3d, 14 weeks.

NAMES OF PUPILS GRADUATING FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL, JUNE, 1878.

Emma F. Adams,
Kate L. Beard,
Lizzie E. Cummings,
Minnie K. Eames,
Augusta S. Hayes,
Nellie S. Loring,
Sarah E. Parker,
Lizzie Turner,
Florence J. Wilson,
William S. Carter,
George A. Forbes,
Walter Gerritson,
Ada C. Andrew,
Nellie M. Blunt,
Bertha C. Dole,
Mary F. Eaton,
Maud F. Littlefield,
Clara F. Nash,
Nettie M. Skinner,
Mattie F. Wilkins,
Adelbert H. Carter,
Joseph C. Clark,
Arthur J. Foster,
George B. Holden,
William O. Richardson.

ROLL OF HONOR,

giving the names of those who have been neither absent nor tardy since March, 1878, and the schools to which they belong.

HIGH SCHOOL.

* Emma Adden,
* Nellie A. LaClair,
Walter P. Gleason,
Frank W. Kendall,
Leighton H. McIntire,
† Hannah E. Hibbert,
L. Fannie Mitchell,
* Edea R. Beers,
* Agnes H. Forbes,
† Sylvina F. Moulton,
Charles L. Walker,
* Susan R. Nichols,
* Almina Knight,
* Kate E. Perry,
John R. Hutchinson,
* Warren H. Manning,
* Alice O. Dow,
Mary C. Holden,
George Hill,
Grace H. Brown,
* Lydia A. Holden,
Wilbur F. Pratt,
* Fannie A. LaClair,
* Ellsworth McAllister,
William S. Manning.

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* Neither absent nor tardy for two years.

† Neither absent nor tardy for three years.

FIRST GRAMMAR.

Lydia F. Cummings,
* Hattie F. Damon,
Grace Holden,
† Annie M. Moulton,
Lizzie Pinkham,
Mary A. Emerson,
Hattie Foster,
* Annie C. Lawrence,
* Laura C. Melendy,
Fred Willcox.

SECOND GRAMMAR.

Carrie Baker,
Lora Potter,
Lizzie Walker,
* Emma M. Damon,
† Katie M. Trowe,
Parker J. Gowing,
† Walter M. Kingman.

THIRD GRAMMAR.

Annie P. Channell,
Annie Whelton,
Edna C. Potter,
Herbert L. McKay.

UPPER MEDIUM.

Annie J. Riordan,
Arthur J. Gowing.

LOWER MEDIUM.

* George F. Dow,
Emma Berry,
Matthew Forbes,
Nellie Riordan.

UNION STREET UPPER PRIMARY.

Willie Channell.

UNION STREET LOWER PRIMARY.

Charles F. Kealey.

WALNUT STREET SCHOOL.

* Hattie E. Austin,
Jane Doucette,
Edward H. Stevens,
* Rose Meuse,
Cora Hunter,
Hattie V. Stone.

LOWELL STREET SCHOOL.

Nathaniel Hill,
John Allen.

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* Neither absent nor tardy for two years.

† Neither absent nor tardy for three years.

MAIN STREET SCHOOL.

Mabel S. LaClair, Eddie E. Nichols,
Maud L. Taylor.

NOTE. Charles E. Blood, Second Grammar, has been absent one-half day only for two years. Lilla Sweetser, Second Grammar, and Amy P. Richardson, Walnut street School, have each been absent one day only during the year, the absence being caused by sickness. Fred Sweetser, Second Grammar, Walter Krook and C. Edward Mellen, Union street Lower Primary, have been absent one-half day only during the year. Neither of the above pupils have been tardy.

TABLE SHOWING SALARIES, ATTENDANCE, AND NUMBER OF VISITORS.

Names of Schools.	Number of Visitors	Teachers.	Salary now Paid.	Number of Pupils.			Average Attendance.			Pupils during year over 15 years	Pupils during year under 5 years
				1st term	2d term	3d term	1st term	2d term	3d term		
High School	91	Cyrus A. Cole, Principal	$1400 00 per year.	87	87	83	84	85	80	99	..
		Miss Mary L. Stinchfield, Assistant	10 00 per we'k.								
First Grammar	150	Miss Jennie R. Barrus	13 00 do	28	40	38	25	39	37	27	..
Second Grammar	162	Miss Sarah L. Stoodley	12 00 do	44	35	36	42	33	33	7	..
Third Grammar	72	Miss Annie M. Knight	12 00 do	44	37	34	39	36	33	2	..
Upper Medium	110	Miss Evelyn S. Foster	10 00 do	37	22	22	35	20	20	..	..
Lower Medium	61	†Miss Addie B. Howes	10 00 do	20	28	27	17	26	24	..	..
Union Street Upper Primary	196	Mrs. S. A. Goodridge	10 00 do	50	50	51	43	44	45	..	..
Union Street Lower Primary	275	Miss Ruth L. Pratt	10 00 do	72	49	44	51	42	31	..	5
Walnut Street Mixed	58	Miss Sadie R. Lindsay	11 00 do	49	53	49	41	47	41	2	..
		*Miss Vestina P. Converse	2 25 do								
Woburn Street Grammar	70	†Mrs. F. E. Haines	9 00 do	23	20	34	21	18	29	..	..
Woburn Street Primary	64	Miss Evelyn C. Bancroft	6 00 do	27	29	23	26	24	19	..	..
Lowell Street Mixed	89	Miss Evelyn Barrows	8 50 do	27	25	21	24	22	19	2	..
Main Street Mixed	64	Mr. L. F. Elliott	8 00 do	15	13	14	14	12	13	..	..
Haverhill Street Mixed	23	Miss Z. H. Wakefield	6 00 do	8	10	10	7	9	9	..	2
Totals	1485			531	498	486	469	457	433	139	7

* Assistant two hours per day.

† Term of service closed.

EXPENSES OF SCHOOLS.

[For names of teachers and salaries see previous page.]

INSTRUCTION.

Paid for teaching High School	$1893 30	
First Grammar	491 40	
Second Grammar	468 00	
Third Grammar	468 00	
Upper Medium	390 00	
Lower Medium	390 00	
Union Street Upper Primary	390 00	
Union Street Lower Primary	390 00	
Walnut Street Mixed	506 25	
Woburn Street Grammar	345 60	
Woburn Street Primary	234 00	
Lowell Street Mixed	331 50	
Main Street Mixed	312 00	
Haverhill Street Mixed	234 00	
instruction in music	250 00	
		$7094 05

JANITORS.

Paid for care of Centre School buildings	$326 00	
Walnut Street School buildings	55 25	
Woburn Street School buildings	48 75	
Lowell Street School buildings	35 00	
Main Street School buildings	29 25	
Haverhill Street School buildings	29 25	
		523 50
Amount carried forward		$7617 55

Amount brought forward		$7617 55

FUEL.

Paid J. C. Gleason, for coal	$273 75	
town of Reading, for wood	88 95	
labor on wood	35 75	
		398 45
Total amount expended		$8016 00
Total amount unexpended		184 85
		$8200 85
Appropriation	$8000 00	
Received from State fund	200 85	
		8200 85

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Paid F. E. Brooks, washing outhouses and labor	$5 15	
C. A. Loring, repairs and sundries	5 65	
Peters & Jones, waste-baskets and brooms	7 00	
Citizens' Gaslight Company, gas to May, 1878	3 50	
A. W. Lovering, books ("Nurseries")	16 75	
N. W. Broad, stock and labor on repairs	21 14	
J. L. Hammett, erasers and school supplies	14 03	
J. L. Hammett, globes	45 00	
Ward & Gay, ink	1 20	
A. E. Rowe, bell	50	
H. G. Wadlin, cash paid for ribbon for diplomas	2 10	
H. T. Wier, mounting chart for High School	1 50	
Garfield & Co., lines on blackboards	12 00	
G. W. Atkinson, pails, brooms and sundries	7 70	
A. T. Holden, repairs on pumps	4 00	
W. F. Brown & Co., printing programmes for High School graduation	9 80	
J. E. Simonds, tickets for same	1 50	
D. H. Nichols, labor on repairs	14 00	
Amount carried forward		$172 52

Amount brought forward	$172 52
Paid E. Safford, extending platform at Lyceum Hall for High School graduation	7 50
Lyceum Hall Association, use of hall	10 00
J. C. Cook, painting Lowell Street building	48 50
J. C. Cook, oiling floors at Lowell Street building	5 75
Bancroft & Temple, stock and labor at Lowell Street building	40 70
Edward Parker, mason work at Lowell Street building	35 00
Edward Parker, mason work at Union Hall	9 90
H. McElwin, blackboards at Lowell Street house	12 00
B. Foley, labor	13 25
A. & E. Burton, feather duster	3 00
D. P. Babb, labor	3 00
T. T. Bailey, books	10 26
Gustavus Loring, repairs	7 55
W. A. Hunter, labor	3 00
F. J. Bancroft, tuning and moving piano	5 50
C. T. Tolman, report cards	6 00
Hill & Tolman, report cards	2 00
M. Hanley, chairs	4 50
Horace W. Blanchard, labor	1 95
W. W. Davis, cash paid for sundries	5 55
A. W. Danforth, books for teachers' desks	9 21
I. N. Willis, labor	65
S. W. Fuller, gong at High School and hanging same	21 00
J. H. Wentworth, pump at Haverhill Street building	13 00
Citizens' Gas Co., gas at High School from May, 1878, to March, 1879	22 10
George Beasley, grading yards	9 00
L. E. Gleason, stationery	56
T. Littlefield, stove, sundries and repairs	37 82
Bancroft & Temple, stock and labor	4 97
Amount carried forward	$525 74

Amount brought forward	$525 74	
Paid Mrs. Lahan, cleaning	2 00	
W. H. Willis, sundries	1 55	
Lang's express, expressage	2 45	
Cummings' express, expressage	1 65	
J. N. Nichols, setting glass	1 18	
M. E. Nichols, setting glass	55	
Thompson & Brown, books	4 82	
Estes & Lauriat, dictionary	8 50	
W. E. Beard, thermometers and repairs	2 90	
G. O. Batchelder, rent of Main Street School lot, 1878	5 00	
Journal Newspaper Co., for advertising	1 50	
W. F. Durgin, cash paid for advertising	1 50	
A. W. Danforth, for books for indigent pupils	52 24	
John A. Blunt, chair irons	50	
Total amount expended		$612 08
Unexpended		87 92
Appropriation		$700 00

☞ The sums of $10.30 for gravel removed from Walnut Street School lot, and $3 from Mrs. L. B. Smith, elocutionist, for gas consumed at High School, due the town, were not received prior to closing the accounts for the year.

TOWN WARRANT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MIDDLESEX, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Reading,

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the town of Reading, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet in Lyceum Hall, in said Reading, on MONDAY, the SEVENTH day of APRIL, A. D. 1879, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, viz.:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator.

ART. 2. To hear and act on the reports of the Auditors, Treasurer, Collectors, Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, School Committee, Road Commissioners, Engineers of the Fire Department, Trustees of the Public Library and Trustees of the Cemetery.

ART. 3. To see if the town will revoke its acceptance of the provisions of the 158th chapter of the laws of this State, enacted in the year 1871, and abolish the Board of Road Commissioners, chosen and constituted under said law, or what they will do in relation thereto.

ART. 4. To choose a Town Clerk, Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, Treasurer, Collector,

two School Committee for three years and one for one year, one Road Commissioner for three years, and all other necessary town officers.

Art. 5. To determine how much money the town will raise for the support of schools, and how much for incidental school expenses the ensuing year.

Art. 6. To determine how much money the town will raise for the repair of highways and bridges the ensuing year, and how the same shall be expended.

Art. 7. To determine how much money the town will raise for defraying the expenses of the Fire Department the ensuing year.

Art. 8. To see how much money the town will raise to defray the ordinary expenses of the ensuing year.

Art. 9. To determine how much money the town will raise to pay interest on the town debt.

Art. 10. To determine how much money the town will raise towards paying the town debt.

Art. 11. To determine how much money the town will raise for the support of the Public Library the ensuing year.

Art. 12. To determine how much money the town will raise for the improvement of the cemetery the ensuing year.

Art. 13. To determine how much money the town will raise for the repair and decoration of soldiers' graves.

Art. 14. To see if the town will authorize the Treasurer to hire money, under the direction of the Selectmen, in anticipation of taxes.

Art. 15. To see what instructions the town will give their Treasurer and Collector.

Art. 16. To see for what purpose the town will appropriate the money received for dog licenses.

Art. 17. To see if the town will accept one hundred dollars in trust, in accordance with the will of the

late Thomas Sweetser, that so much of the interest of the same as may be necessary shall be used for the purpose of keeping his cemetery lot in repair.

Art. 18. To see what instruction the town will give the Selectmen in regard to granting license for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Art. 19. To see what action they will take in regard to the suit brought against the town by Frank E. Brown in relation to the Walnut Street Schoolhouse lot.

Art. 20. To see if the town will erect and maintain a street-light on the easterly side of Eliott street at Green street, and at the junction of Parker and Pleasant streets, also at the corner of Lowell and Linden streets.

Art. 21. To see how much money the town will appropriate to keep the Old South clock running, or what they will do in relation thereto.

Art. 22. To see if the town will establish a watering-place at the well near Preston Richardson's, on West street.

Art. 23. To see if the town will place flagstones or concrete the sidewalk on Haven street, from Simes' Block to the bakery, or what they will do in relation thereto.

Art. 24. To see if the town will build a sidewalk on Main street, from Minot street to the railroad.

Art. 25. To hear and act on the list of jurors prepared by the Selectmen.

Art. 26. To see if the town will prohibit the depositing of rubbish upon the highways.

Art. 27. To hear and act on the report of the Road Commissioners on rounding the corner of Washington and Village streets.

Art. 28. To hear and act on the report of Road Commissioners in relation to guide-posts.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time appointed for said meeting.

Given under our hands this twenty-sixth day of March, A. D. 1879.

J. B. Leathe,
James Reid,
Joseph L. Pratt,
} Selectmen of Reading.

A true copy.—Attest: H. E. Cox, Constable of Reading.